HARRY & ELLA FIFE'S TRIP AROUND THE WORLD IN 1934

BY JIM PECK

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HARRY & ELLA FIFE'S TRIP AROUND THE WORLD - 1934 (7 months or 208 days)

Chapter	Chapter Contents	Pages	Ports/Stops	Day	Arr. Date	Dep. Date	# Days	Naut. Miles	Steamship/House
1	DEPARTURE	1-7	New York City	1	1/18	1/18	1	0	S.S. McKinley
2	HAVANA	8-17	Havana, Cuba	4	1/21	1/22	2	1,169	S.S. McKinley
3	PANAMA CANAL	18-34	Panama City, Panama	8	1/25	1/25	1	1,038	S.S. McKinley
4	CALIFORNIA	35-60	Los Angeles, CA	16	2/2	3/19	45	2,909	Rented house in Long Beach
			San Francisco, CA	63	3/21	3/23	5	351	Stayed on board Pres. Hoover
5	ACROSS THE PACIFIC	61-66	Honolulu, Hawaii	69	3/27	3/29	2	2,081	President Hoover
6	JAPAN	67-81	Yokohama (Nikko/Tokyo), Japan	79	4/6	4/9	3	3,394	President Hoover
			Kobe (Kyoto), Japan	82	4/9	4/16	7	346	By Train
7	CHINA & HONG KONG	82-104	Tientsin, China	89	4/16	4/23	7		By Japanese Boat
			Shanghai/Peiping, China	96	4/23	5/10	17	776	By Train
			Nanking, China	113	5/10	5/18	8		
			Hong Kong/Canton, China	121	5/18	5/25	7	813	President Harrison
8	MANILA	105-112	Manila, Philippines	130	5/27	5/28	2	626	President Harrison
9	SINGAPORE & MALAYSIA	113-120	Singapore, Malaysia	136	6/2	6/5	3	1,332	President Harrison
			Penang, Malaysia	140	6/6	6/7	1	377	President Harrison
10	CEYLON	121-134	Colombo, Ceylon	144	6/10	6/25	15	1,269	President Hayes
11	INDIA	135-145	Bombay, India	162	6/28	7/14	17	885	President Johnson
12	EGYPT	146-153	Alexandria, Egypt	187	7/22	7/25	3	3,196	President Johnson
13	ITALY	154-155	Naples/Rome, Italy	183	7/28	7/29	1	1,000	President Johnson
			Genoa, Italy	186	7/30	7/31	1	335	President Johnson
14	FRANCE AND ON HOME	156-162	Marseilles, France	188	7/31	8/1	2	197	President Johnson
			New York City	208	8/13			3,873	President Johnson
			Totals	208				25,967	

TRIP "ROUND THE WORLD"- HARRY & ELLA FIFE- 1/18/1934 through 8/13/1934

Harry Moore Fife and his wife Ella Sanford Fife, my grandfather and grandmother, took a trip around the world by steamer ship in 1934. They were gone for 208 days, just under seven months, though 50 of these days were spent in Southern California between ships. Harry was 42 years old and Ella was 38. The trip was a kind of sabbatical from work.

They left their three kids- my mother Nona (age 10), Harry Jr. (age 9 just 6 days before they departed), and James Arthur (age 6). Nona, my mother, stayed with the Butterfield family who lived next door to them in Chipman Park, Middlebury, Vermont. Harry & Jim were shipped off to their Fife relatives in Nova Scotia where Aunt Annie took care of them.

The voyage probably cost $854 or more for a first class ticket on the Dollar Steamship Line which specialized in steamer trips to all parts of the world using their fleet of President Liners, named for U.S. presidents. That $854 is the equivalent of about $13,000 today. For a history of the Dollar Steamship Line see http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/lines/dollar.htm .

The voyage began in New York City where they boarded a steam-ship and traveled through the Panama Canal to Los Angeles. From L.A., they steamed to San Francisco, then to the Orient, Japan and China. After stops in Hong Kong, Manila, Malaysia, Singapore, and Ceylon, they arrived in Bombay, India where they stayed a couple of weeks visiting as far north in India as the Taj Mahal. From Bombay, they steamed up through the Suez Canal to Alexandria and Cairo, Egypt, then to Rome, Italy and Marseilles, France. Finally, they returned home to New York City, arriving on August 13th.

The reason I know so much about their trip is that I have all their pictures, postcards, passenger lists, etc. that Harry and Ella faithfully kept. Also, I have in my keeping all the letters written by both Harry and Ella to 10-year-old Nona, over 50 or so of them. From all this material, I decided to write a detailed account of the trip best as I can piece it together. This account will be "serialized" with separate chapters about each leg, or port, on the journey. Each chapter will include a photocopy of the letters, pictures, and other items from that leg along with transcriptions of each letter and my commentary.

Chapter 1 covers their arrival in N.Y.C. and departure on January 18th, 1934. Enjoy!

1934 CALENDAR

January 1934

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 1934

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

March 1934

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 1934

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 1934

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 1934

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 1934

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August 1934

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Harry Fife

Ella Fife

Harry Jr., James and Nona Fife

Chapter 1 – Departure from New York City- January 18th 1934

***"The world is a book... he who stays at home reads but one page ..."* from the Dollar Steamship Lines brochure**

Harry & Ella took a train to N.Y.C. traveling during the night of January 17th. Not sure when they left or from where, but they started from Middlebury, Vermont, maybe catching the train in town, or from Burlington or Rutland. They arrived in the Big Apple at 7:30 on the morning of the 18th.

They had some time before the boat left that day, so they dropped off their bags at the Pennsylvania Hotel and went downtown. They had to get their travel permits at the immigration office which they did easily, then visited the Empire State Building. Exhibiting his frugal Scottish ways, Harry refused to pay $2.20 for both of them to the very top, so they rode up to the 42nd floor for nothing and saw nothing! In all fairness to Harry, $2.20 is the equivalent of about $33.50 today.

They then went shopping for clothes for the trip, then back to the hotel to get their baggage and leave for the boat at 2 P.M. They boarded around 3 P.M. and got situated in their stateroom. They received bon voyage flowers from their friends Florence and Marjorie, then stood on the deck throwing many-colored streamers with the rest of the passengers as they moved away from the dock waving to hundreds of friends and family on the dock. A tug moved the ship, the S.S. President McKinley out into the harbor, and they steamed by the Statue of Liberty and out toward the Atlantic towards Havana. See end of this chapter for a detailed description of the S.S. McKinley.

There are two letters from Harry, and one from Ella, to Nona describing their brief day in New York and their departure. The first was a brief post card which they mailed that day as it is post-marked 1:30 P.M. on the 18th. See the next page for the transcription of the card and a scan of the actual card.

The second letter from Harry was actually sent from Havana and the description of N.Y.C is similar to that on the post-card, but a little expanded due to the extra room he had to write. That letter is shown on pages 3 and 4 along with my transcription of it.

The third letter is from Ella and describes the send-off from the dock a little differently from Harry. See page 5.

Page 6 shows the Guest List and List of Officers for the President McKinley. There were 63 passengers, of which only 7 were going "round the world", including Harry & Ella. One of the 7 was the only child on board the ship, Lucinda Lippard (age 9) who is mentioned by both Harry & Ella in their letters. My guess is that my mother, Nona, might have been a little jealous of hearing that her parents were doing things with Lucinda while she sat at home. Harry was careful not to mention her much, but Ella wrote about Harry playing ping pong with her a few times. I'm sure Harry and Ella missed their kids and Lucinda was their surrogate child on the trip to L.A.

The trip they were taking to Los Angeles was actually made every week on Thursday on various Dollar ships. Since it took about 15 days to get to L.A., I figure there must have been at least 4 ships on that route. Their voyage was labeled # 41 for the President McKinley, which I assume means it's 41st from New York to L.A. (and back?) See page 7 for details on the S.S. President McKinley. You can also see their names on the passenger list here: http://content.ancestry.myfamily.com/iexec/?htx=View&r=5519&dbid=7949&iid=cam1764_49-0044&fn=Harry+Moore&ln=Fife&st=r&ssrc=&pid=2084128. One thing I'm unsure of is why the ship's passenger capacity as 835 versus the 63 listed on the Guest List. My guess is that the 63 were in the "first class state-rooms, while perhaps others were in lesser plush quarters lower on the ship. See this site for pictures of the accommodations on a typical Dollar steam-ship cruise in First Class:http://www.glenvick.com/DollarSteamshipLine/1925-Brochure-PresidentLiners.html

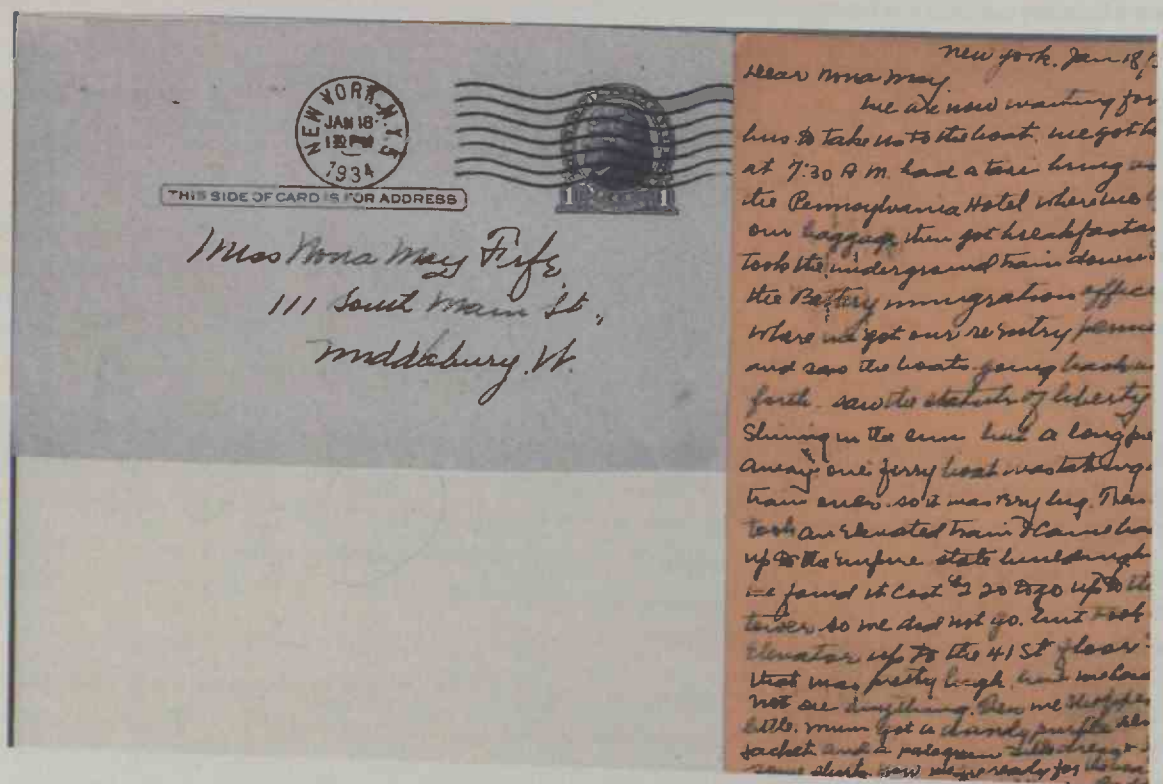
[First Letter from Harry to Nona]

New York, Jan. 18/34

Dear Nona May,

We are now waiting for the bus to take us to the boat. We got here at 7:30 A.M. had a taxi bring us to the Pennsylvania Hotel where we left our baggage then got breakfast and took the underground train down to the Battery immigration office where we got our re-entry permits and saw the boats going back and forth. Saw the Statue of Liberty shining in the sun but a long piece away. One ferry boat was taking a train over, so it was very long. Then we took an elevated train and came back up to the Empire state building, but we found it cost $2.20 to go up to the tower, so we did not go, but took an elevator up to the 41st floor, So that was pretty high, but we could not see anything. Then we shopped a little. Mum got a dandy purple velvet jacket and a pale green silk dress + I got some shirts. Now we are ready for the boat.

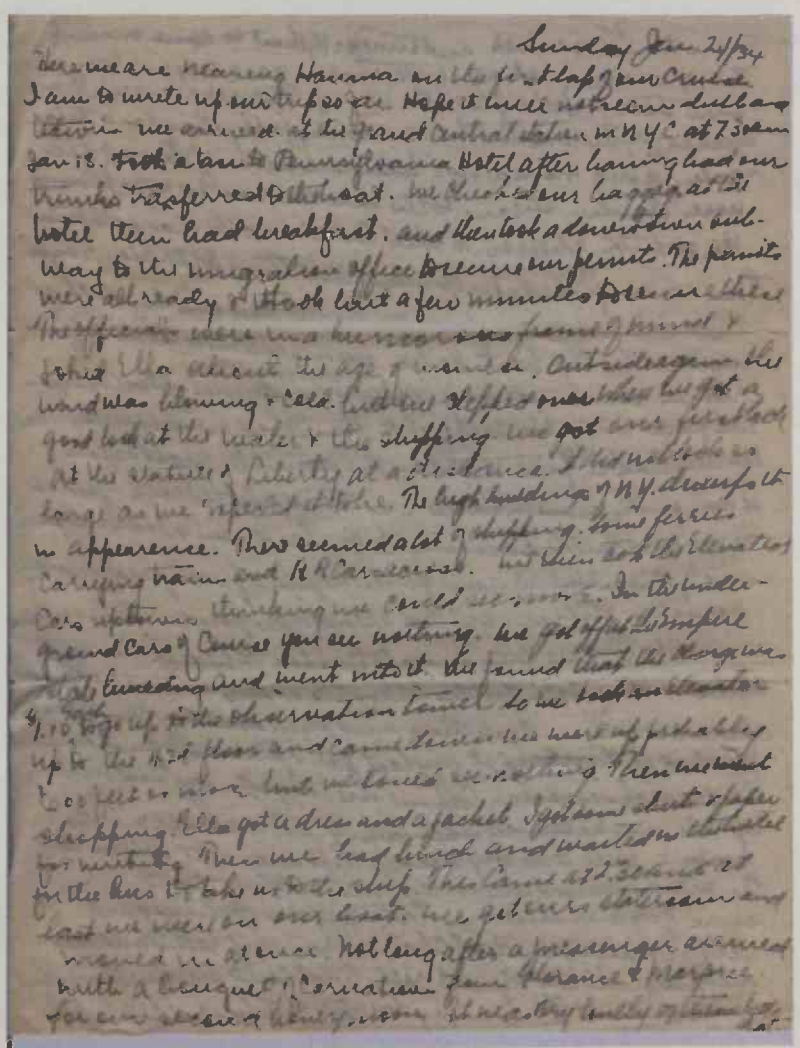
Love + Kisses, Daddy



[Second Letter from Harry to Nona]

Sunday Jan. 21/34

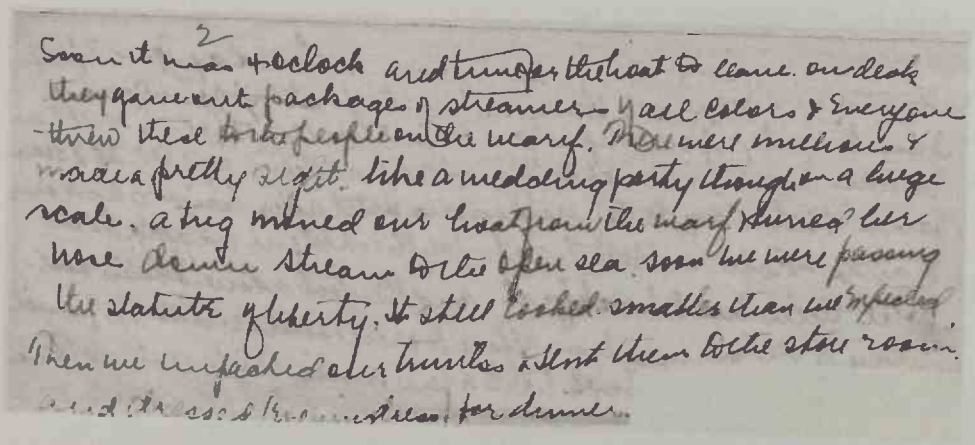
Here we are nearing Havana on the first lap of our cruise. I am to write up our trip so far. Hope it will not seem dull and tedious. We arrived at the grand central station in N.Y.C. at 7:30 am Jan 18. Took a taxi to Pennsylvania Hotel after having our trunks transferred to the boat. We checked our luggage at the hotel then had breakfast, and then took a downtown subway to the immigration office to secure our permits. The permits were all ready + it took but a few minutes to secure them. The officials were in a humorous frame of mind + joked Ella about the age of women. Outside again, the wind was blowing + cold but we stepped over where we got a good look at the water + the shipping. We got our first look at the Statue of Liberty at a distance. It did not look so large as we expected it to be. The high buildings of N.Y. dwarf it in appearance. There seemed a lot of shipping. Some ferries carrying a train and R.R. cars across. We then took the Elevated cars uptown thinking we could see more. In the underground cars of course you see nothing. We got off at the Empire State building and went into it. We found that the charge was $1.10 each to go up to the observation tower so we took an elevator up to the 42nd floor and came down. We were up probably 600 feet or more, but we could see nothing. Then we went shopping. Ella got a dress and a jacket. I got some shirts + paper for writing. Then we had lunch and waited in the hotel for the bus to take us to the ship. This came at 2:30 and at last we were on our boat. We got our stateroom and moved in at once. Not long after, a messenger arrived with a bouquet of carnations from Florance + Marjorie for our second honeymoon. It was very lovely of them to do that.



[Second Harry Letter cont'd]

2

Soon it was 4 o'clock and time for the boat to leave. On deck they gave out packages of streamers of all colors + everyone threw these to the people on the wharf. There were millions + made a pretty sight like a wedding party though on a huge scale. A tug moved our boat from the wharf + turned her nose down stream to the open sea. Soon we were passing the statue of liberty. It still looked smaller than we expected. Then we unpacked our trunks + sent them to the store room and dressed (evening dress) for dinner.



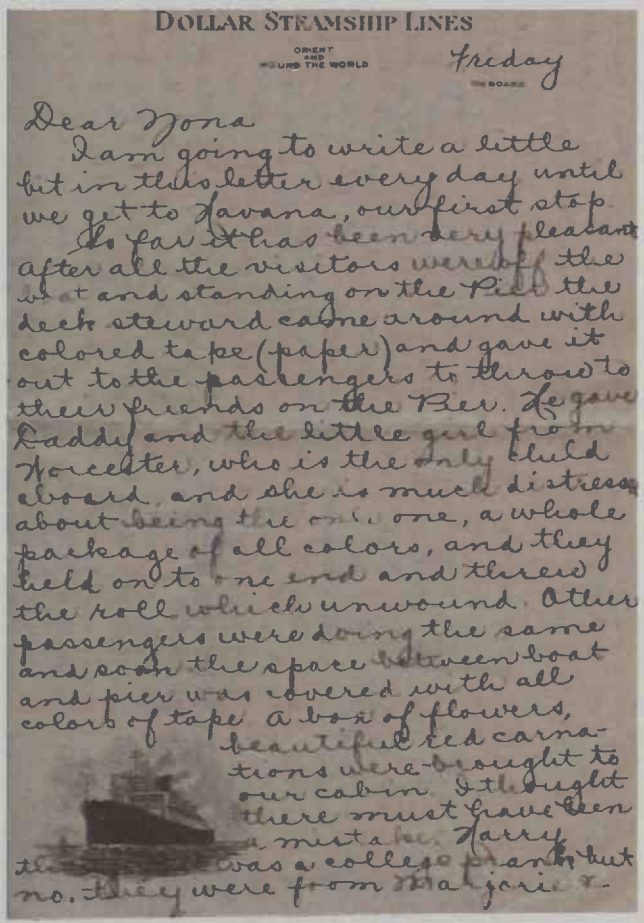
[First Letter from Ella]

Friday [Jan. 19, 1934]

Dear Nona

I am going to write a little bit in this letter every day until we get to Havana, our first stop.

So far it has been very pleasant after all the visitors were off the boat and standing on the Pier. The deck steward came around with colored tape (paper) and gave it to the passengers to throw to their friends on the Pier. He gave Daddy and the little girl from Worcester, who is the only child on board, and she is much distressed about being the only one, a whole package of all colors, and they held on to one end and threw the roll which unwound. Other passengers were doing the same and soon the space between the boat and pier was covered with all colors of tape. A box of beautiful red carnations were brought to our cabin. I thought there must have been a mistake. Harry thought it was a college prank, but no, they were from Marjorie +Florence for our second honeymoon. Our cabin is lovely with two beds, two chiffoniers, two wardrobes, a silver thermos bottle with ice water and all the rest of it.


DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

ORIENT AND AROUND THE WORLD

Friday

ON BOARD

Dear Nona

I am going to write a little but in this letter every day until we get to Havana, our first stop.

So far it has been very pleasant after all the visitors were off the boat and standing on the Pier the deck steward came around with colored tape (paper) and gave it out to the passengers to throw to their friends on the Pier. He gave Daddy and the little girl from Worcester, who is the only child aboard, and she is much distressed about being the only one, a whole package of all colors, and they held on to one end and threw the roll which unwound. Other passengers were doing the same and soon the space between boat and pier was covered with all colors of tape. A box of flowers, beautiful red carnations were brought to our cabin. I thought there must have been a mistake. Harry thought it was a college prank but no, they were from Marjorie +-

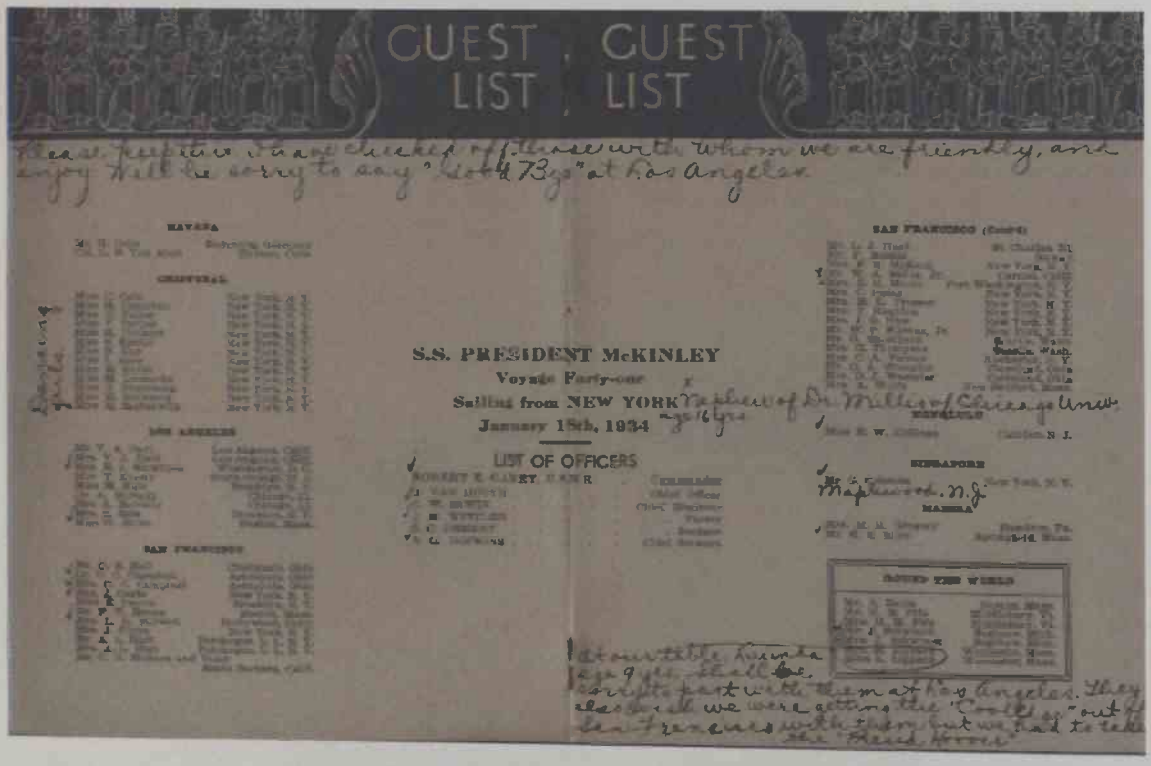
Florence for our second honeymoon. Our cabin is lovely with two beds, two chiffoniers, two wardrobes a silver thermos bottle with ice water and all the rest of it.

THE GUEST LIST-S.S. President McKinley

Writing at top to Nona Fife: "Please keep this. I have checked off those with whom we are friendly and enjoy. [15 guests and 4 officers] Will be sorry to say "Good Bye" at Los Angeles."

Written middle right: "x Nephew of Dr. Millis of Chicago Univ." [meaning Mr. W.A. Millis, Jr. from Carmel, Calif.]

There are 63 guests listed and 5 officers. Guests were likely all in First Class staterooms.



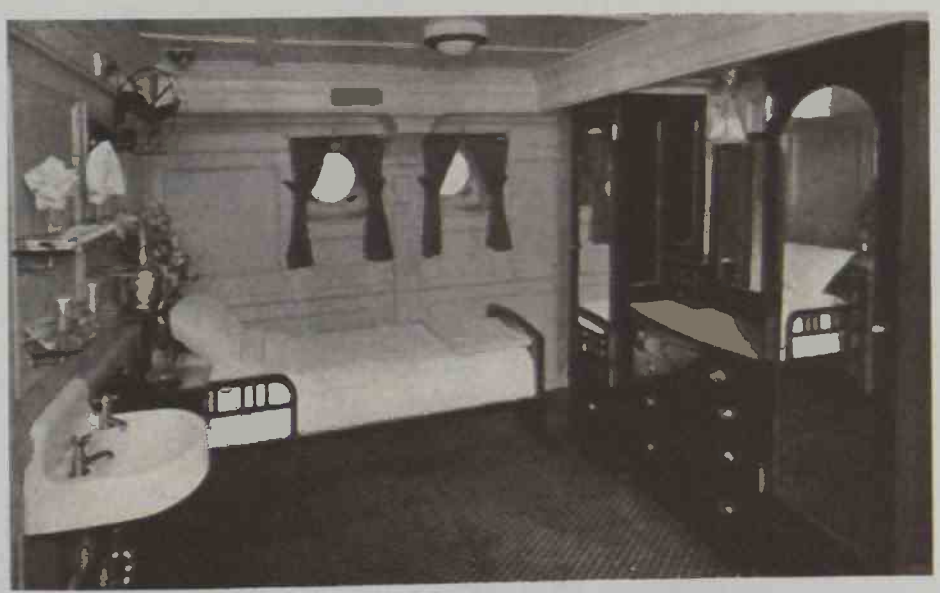
Written at bottom right: "At our table Lucinda [Lippard] age 9 yrs. Shall be sorry to part with them at Los Angeles. They also wish we were getting the "Coolidge" out of San Francisco with them but we had to take the "Presid. Hoover"."

Steamship taken from NYC to LA- 1/18-2/2/1934

Source: History - 1920-31 Vessel Statistics at http://www.apl.com/history/timeline/stat5.htm

Class/Design — 535

President McKinley (First)
Built 1921 by New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, New Jersey. Hull No. 253, O/N 221,314
LOA=535'0", **LBP**=518'0", **B**=72'0", **D**=50'0", **Draft**=30'7"
Displacement=21,350 LT, **Deadweight**=11,210 LT, **Gross tonnage**=14,127
Cargo capacity: 452,000 Cu Ft., **Passengers:** 835, **Speed:** 18 knots
Machinery: Twin screw, geared steam turbine, 12,000 HP. Eight B&W WT boilers, 265#WP.
Originally KEYSTONE STATE. Operated for the U.S. Shipping Board by Admiral Oriental Line from 1921 until 1926. Renamed **President McKinley** June 9, 1922. Sold to Admiral Oriental Line 1926. Transferred to American Mail Line, the successor to Admiral Oriental, in 1926. [American Mail Line operated some Joint Services with Dollar Steamship Lines from NYC]. Sold to the Army October 26, 1940, converted to a troop transport, and renamed J. FRANKLIN BELL. Transferred to the Navy December 26, 1941 and designated AP-34. After earning six battle stars she was decommissioned March 20, 1946 and returned to the War Shipping Administration. Renamed **President McKinley** February 1947. Sold April 3, 1948 to Boston Metals Co. and scrapped at Baltimore, Maryland.



Typical Stateroom on a Dollar Steamship.

Chapter 2 – Havana, Cuba- January 21st and 22nd 1934

"Travel was once a luxury for the rich alone, but today it is within reach of even the younger generation" **from the Dollar Steamship Lines brochure 1934**

The trip to Havana from N.Y.C was 1,169 nautical miles and the President McKinley traveled at 18 knots per hour at top speed, so it is not surprising that it took almost three days to get there. They arrived late Sunday afternoon, the 21st, after three nights on board.

Their stateroom was similar to the one shown on the last page of Chapter 1, but (as described by Ella)"with two beds, two chiffoniers [I didn't know what these were either, so see definition below*], two wardrobes, a silver thermos bottle with ice water, and all the rest of it".

The meals were served in the spacious dining room and were large and quite elaborate. The first night dinner was six courses. Harry did not miss his large breakfast even when somewhat sea sick. He "fed the fishes" a few times with his first breakfast, but recovered quickly, as did Ella.

There was plenty to do on board and they spent their time reading, playing bridge, playing deck golf or ping-pong, watching movies, and relaxing on deck or in their cabin. Harry amused himself watching the 13 dancing girls practice on deck (like a true Fife lad), engaging in a lively political discussion on deck with two men (one "a testy guy", the other "a bit of a high hat"), and betting on some sort of a simulated "pony race" with dice. The latter seems a bit un-Scotsman-like, so perhaps the warm weather or the sea sickness loosened his wallet. He says in his letter that he did it because it was for the "sick seaman's fund" so he might have been showing his charitable side, since I'd hate to think my grandfather was hood-winked. In any event, he ended with a profit of $1.50, though not quite enough for one ticket up the Empire State Building.

Harry and Ella made two trips ashore to visit Havana, Sunday evening and Monday morning, the 21st and 22nd. On Sunday evening, they took a conducted tour of the city, sightseeing in the narrow streets and along the waterfront, taking in a Jai Alai game ("Hi-Li" per Harry), and visiting some exclusive cabarets and a men's club for drinks and to watch Spanish dancing after dinner. According to Harry, the dancing girls were "nearly naked", but he says he "he got weary of looking on". Sheesh!

They were visiting Havana long before Fidel Castro's revolution in 1959. After the U.S. warship, the Maine, was sunk in Havana's harbor in February 1898 to start the Spanish-American War, Havana and Cuba were invaded. "Remember the Maine" was the rallying war cry for Americans in that war which ended quickly in August 1898 with the U.S. taking control of Cuba, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam. So, when the Fifes visited, the island was very much a tourist mecca for Americans, with most of the hotels, clubs and casinos owned and operated by Americans. One of them was "Sloppy Joe's", the bar that lent its name to the Sloppy Joe's Bar in Key West, Florida which was famous for being Ernest Hemingway's hangout and which I visited a few years ago.

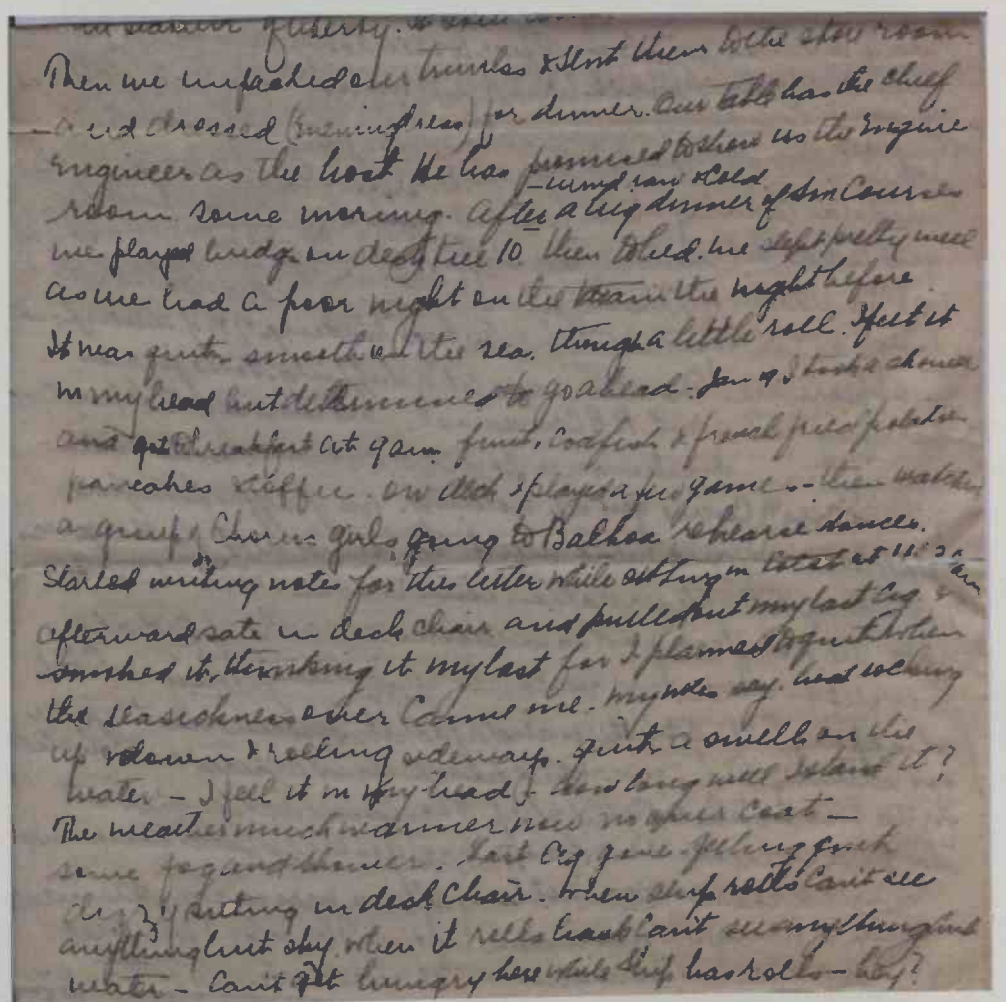
Their second brief visit to Havana on Monday morning was limited to the Capitol Building, or El Capitolio, an ornate building built just 3 years before they visited. Harry says the building was "beautiful beyond description" which jives with the description at this link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Capitolio .

El Capitolio, Havana today

There is one letter from Harry and two from Ella plus a short bit on the back of a postcard about their cruise to Havana and tours of the city. Harry's is quite long and Ella's third letter missed the mail when they left Havana. They start on the next page. There are no other postcards or pictures that I could find.

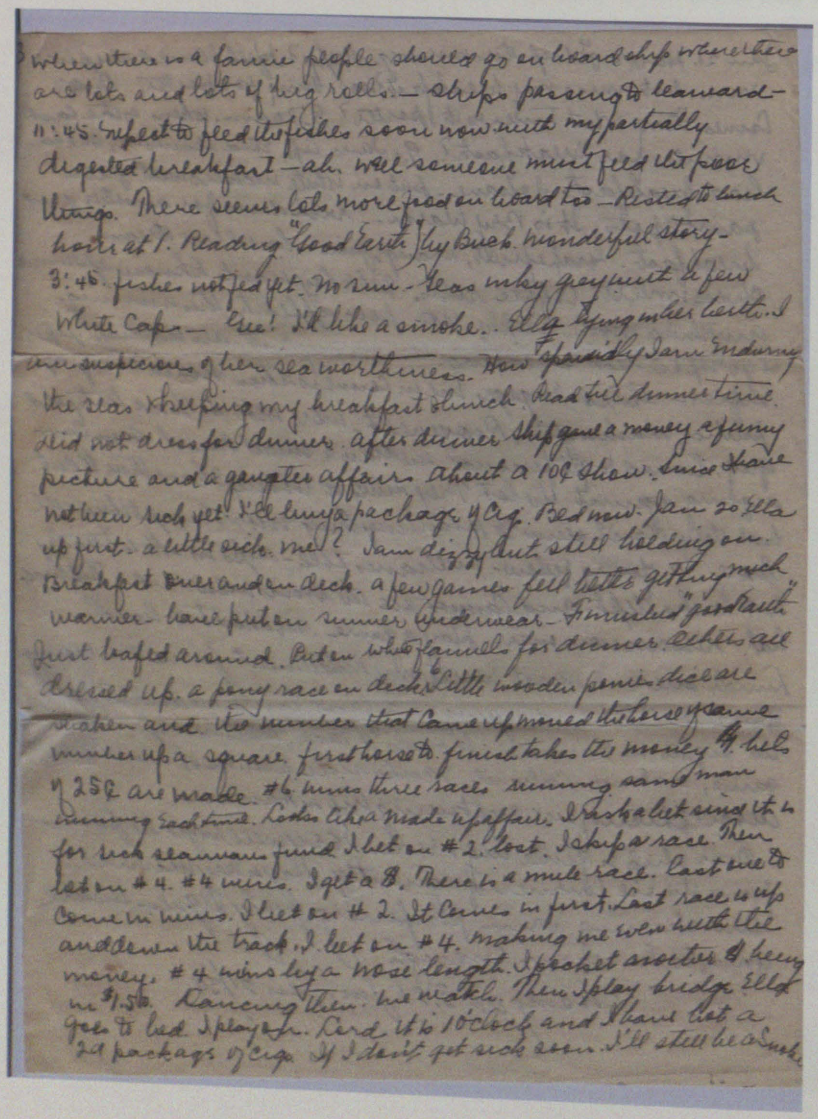
*A "chiffonier" is a narrow high chest of drawers or bureau, often with a mirror attached. I think there are two shown in the picture on Page 7.

[3rd Letter from Harry] Our table has the chief engineer as the host. He has promised to show us the engine room some morning. After a big dinner of six courses, we played bridge on deck till 10 then to bed. We slept pretty well as we had a poor night on the train the night before. It was quite smooth on the sea, though a little roll. I felt it in my head but determined to go ahead. **Jan. 19:** I took a shower and got to breakfast at 9 am. Fruit, codfish + French fried potatoes, pancakes + coffee. On deck I played a few games, then watched a group of chorus girls going to Balboa rehearse dances. Started writing notes for this letter while sitting in hotel at 11:30 am [referring to the entire letter including the N.Y.C. description in Chapter 1 started in the N.Y. hotel.] Afterward sat in deck chair and pulled my last cig. + smoked it, thinking it my last for I planned to quit when the seasickness overcame me my notes say. Boat rocking up + down + rolling sideways. Quite a swell on the water- I feel it in my head- how long will I stand it? The weather much warmer now. No over coat- some fog and shower. Last cig. Gave feeling quite dizzy sitting in deck chair, When ship rolls can't see anything but sky. When it rolls back, can't see anything but water. Can't get hungry here while ship rolls- hey?



[Letter 3 from Harry cont'd]

When there is a fa?? people should go on board ship where there are lots and lots of rolls- ships passing to leaward- 11:45. Expect to feed the fishes soon now with my partially digested breakfast- ah. Well someone must feed the poor things. There seems lots more food on board too- Rested to lunch hour at 1. Reading "Good Earth" by Buck. Wonderful story- 3:45 fishes not fed yet. No sun- seas inky grey with a few white caps- Gee! I'd like a smoke. Ella in her berth. I am suspicious of her sea worthiness. How splendidly I am enduring the seas + keeping my breakfast + lunch. Read till dinner time. Did not dress for dinner. After dinner ship gave a movie- a funny picture and a gangster affair. About a 10 cent show. Since I have not been sick yet, I'll buy a package of cig. Bed now. **Jan 20**- Ella up first. A little sick. Me? I am dizzy but still holding on. Breakfast over and on deck. A few games. Feel better. Getting much warmer- have put on summer underwear. Finished "Good Earth". Just loafed around. Put on white flannels for dinner. Others are dressed up. A pony race on deck. 6 little wooden ponies. Dice are shaken and the number that came up moved the horse same number up a square. First horse to finish takes the money. Bets of 25 cents are made. #6 wins three races running, same man winning each time. Looks like a made up affair. I risk a bet since it is for sick seaman's fund. I bet on #2. It comes in first. Last race is up and down the track. I bet on #4. Making me even with the money. #4 wins by a nose length. I pocket another $1 being up $1.50. Dancing then. We watch. Then I play bridge. Ella goes to bed. I play on. Lord it is 1 o'clock and I have bought a 2nd package of cigs. If I don't get sick soon, I'll still be a smoker.

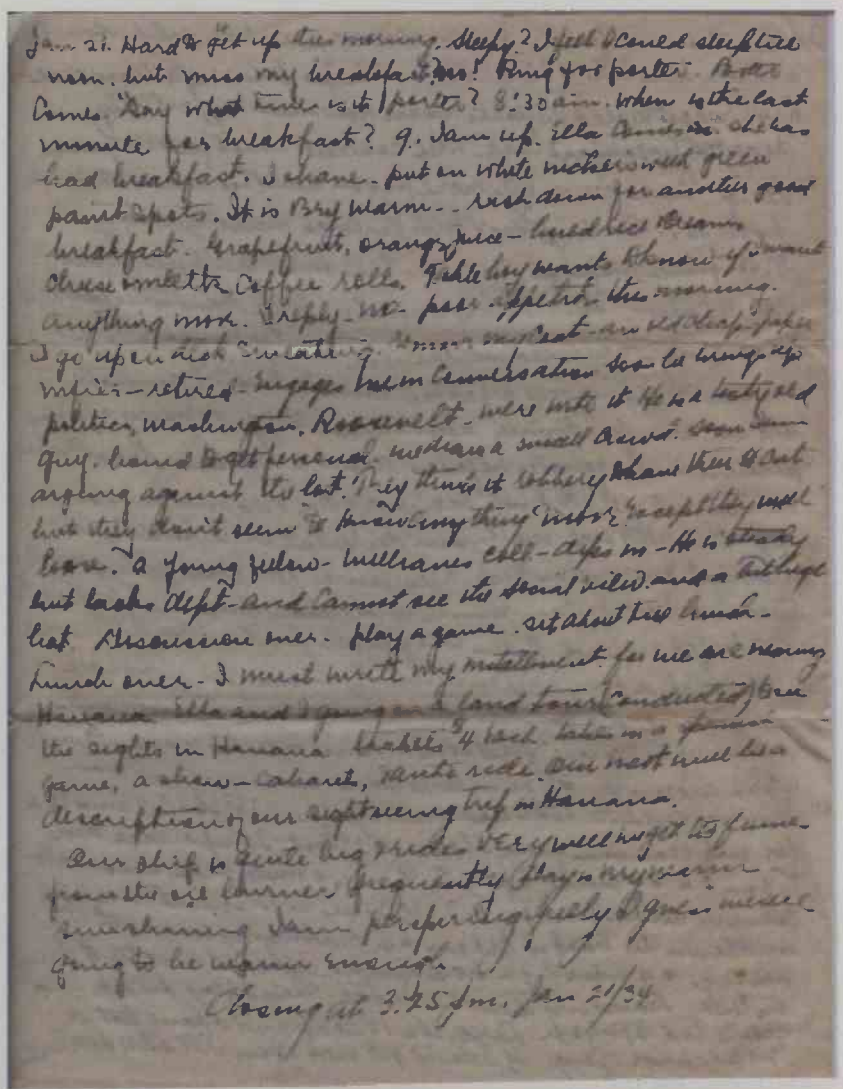


[Letter 3 from Harry cont'd]

Jan 21. Hard to get up this morning. Sleepy? I feel I could sleep till noon, but miss breakfast? No! Ring for porter. Porter comes. "Say, what time is it porter?" "8:30 A.M." "When is the last minute for breakfast?" "9" I am up. Ella comes in. She has had breakfast. I shave- put on white knickers with green paint spots. It is very warm—rush down for another good breakfast. Grapefruit, orange juice, bowl of rice and cream, cheese omelet, coffee, rolls. Table boy wants to know if I want anything more. I reply- no, poor appetite this morning. I go up on deck. Sweating, remove my coat. An old chap- paper? - retired- engages me in conversation. Soon he brings up politics, Washington, Roosevelt- we're into it! He is a testy old guy, bound to get personal. We draw a small crowd. Soon I am arguing against the lot. They think it robbery to have their $ cut but they don't seem to know anything more except they will lose. A young fellow- Williams Coll. - dips in. He is steady but lacks depth- and cannot see the social view and a bit of a high hat. Discussion over. Play a game. Sit about till lunch. Lunch over. I must write my installment for we are nearing Havana. Ella and I going on a land tour (conducted) to see the sights in Havana. Tickets $4 each. Takes in a Spanish game, a show-cabarets, + auto ride. Our next will be a description of our sightseeing trip in Havana.

Our ship is quite big + rides very well. We get the fumes from the oil burner frequently. Day is very warm- sun shining. I am perspiring freely. I guess we are going to be warm enough.

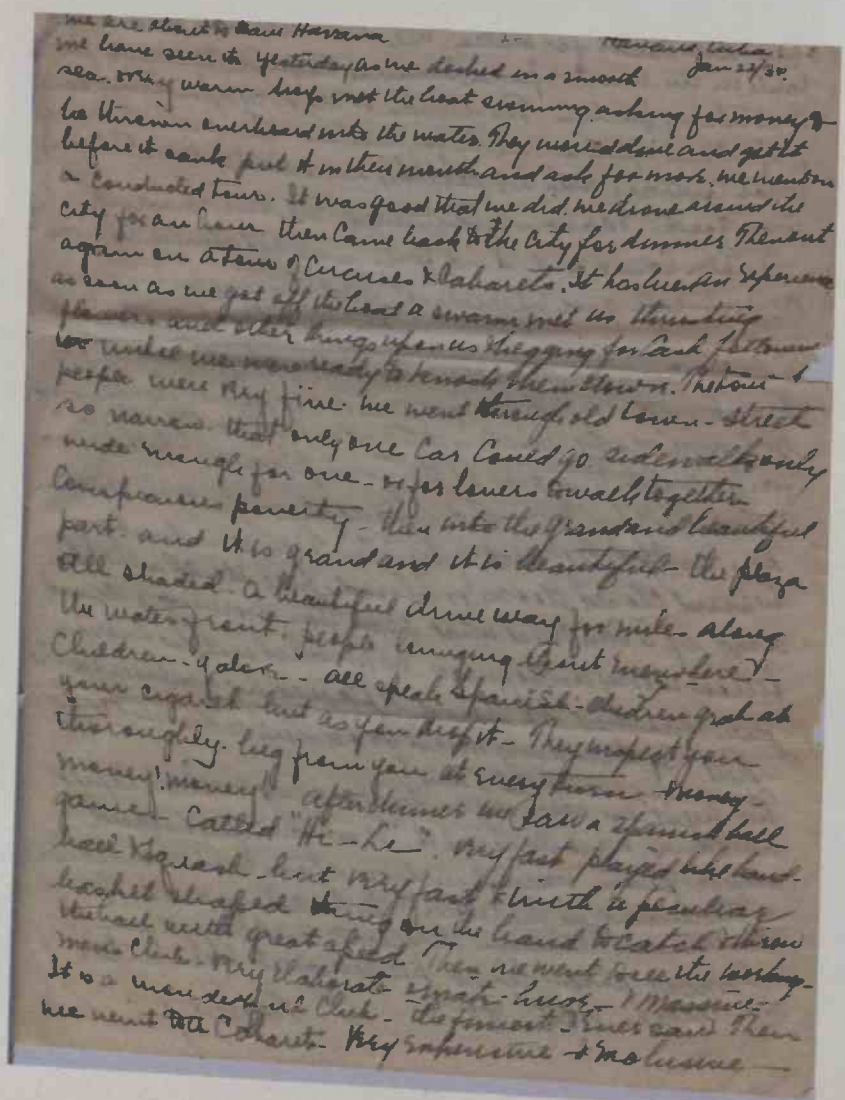
Closing at 3:45 p.m. Jan 21/34.



Havana, Cuba
Jan 22/34

We are about to leave Havana.

We have seen it. Yesterday as we docked in a smooth sea, very warm. Boys met the boat swimming, asking for money to be thrown overboard into the water. They would dive and get it before it sank, put it in their mouth and ask for more. We went on a conducted tour. It was good that we did. We drove around the city for an hour, then came back to the city for dinner. Then out again on a tour of circuses + cabarets, It has been an experience. As soon as we got off the boat, a swarm met us thrusting flowers and other things upon us + begging for cash, following us until we were ready to knock them down. The tour people were very fine. We went through old town- streets so narrow that only one car could go, sidewalks only made for one- or for lovers to walk together. Conspicuous poverty- then into the grand and beautiful part and it is grand and it is beautiful. The plaza all shaded. A beautiful driveway for miles along the water front. People lounging about everywhere- children galore. All speak Spanish. Children grab at your cigarette but as you drop it. They inspect you thoroughly, beg from you at every turn- money! Money! Money! After dinner we saw a Spanish ball game- called "Hi-Li" [actually it was Jai Alai] . Very fast, played like handball + squash, but very fast + with a peculiar basket shaped thing in hand to catch + throw the ball with great speed. Then we went to see the working-men's club. Very elaborate, ornate, huge + massive. It is a wonderful club, the finest I ever saw. We went to a cabaret. Very expensive + exclusive—



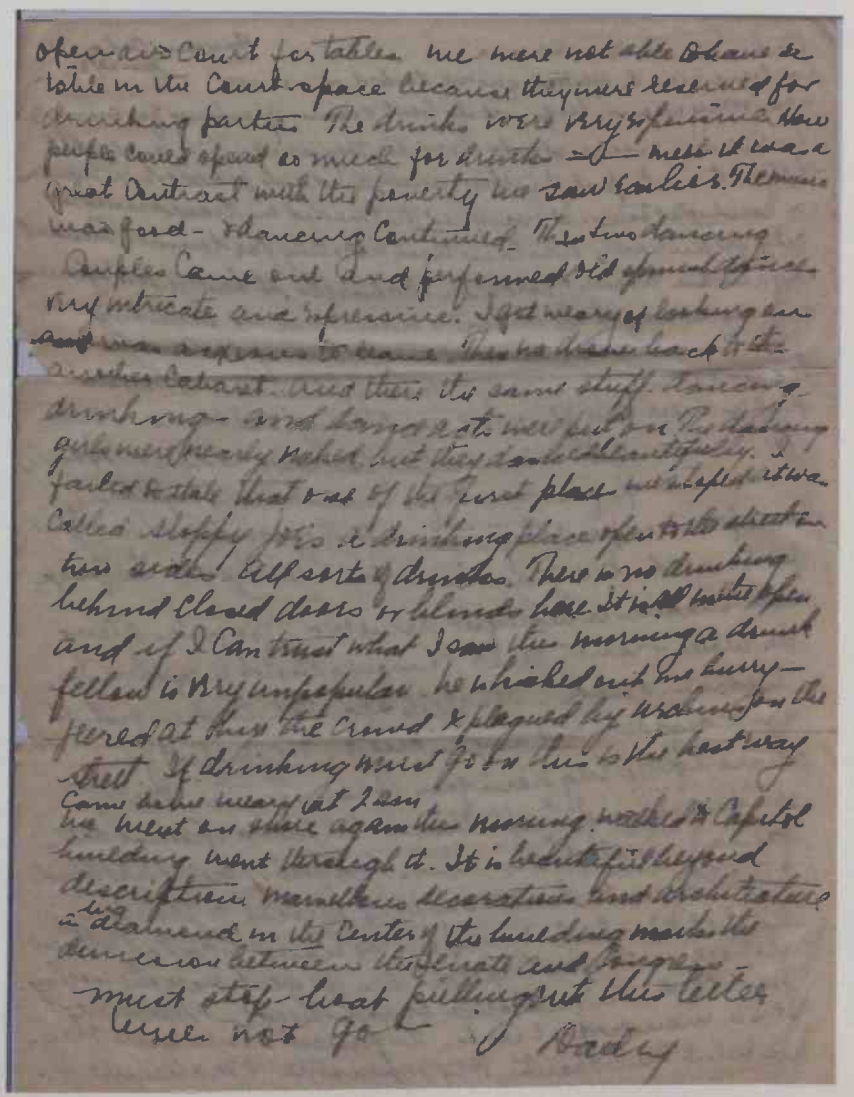
[Letter 3 from Harry cont'd]

Open air court for tables. We were not able to have a table in the court space because they were reserved for drinking parties. The drinks were very expensive. How people could spend so much for drinks--- well, it was a great contrast with the poverty we saw earlier. The music was good- + dancing continued. Then two dancing couples came out and performed old Spanish dances, very intricate and expressive. I got weary looking on and was anxious to leave. Then we drove back to the other cabaret and there the same stuff- dancing, drinking, and dance acts were put on. The dancing girls were nearly naked, but they danced beautifully. I failed to state that one of the first places we stopped at was called Sloppy Joe's, a drinking place open to the street on two sides. All sorts of drinks. There is no drinking behind closed doors or blinds here. It is all in the open and if I can trust what I saw this morning, a drunk fellow is very unpopular. He is kicked out in a hurry, jeered at by the crowd + plagued by urchins on the street. If drinking must go on, this is the best way. Came home weary at 2 am.

We went on shore again this morning, walked to Capitol building, went through it. It is beautiful beyond description, marvelous decorations and architecture. A big diamond in the center of the building marks the division between the Senate and Congress-

Must stop- boat pulling out. This letter will not go---

Daddy



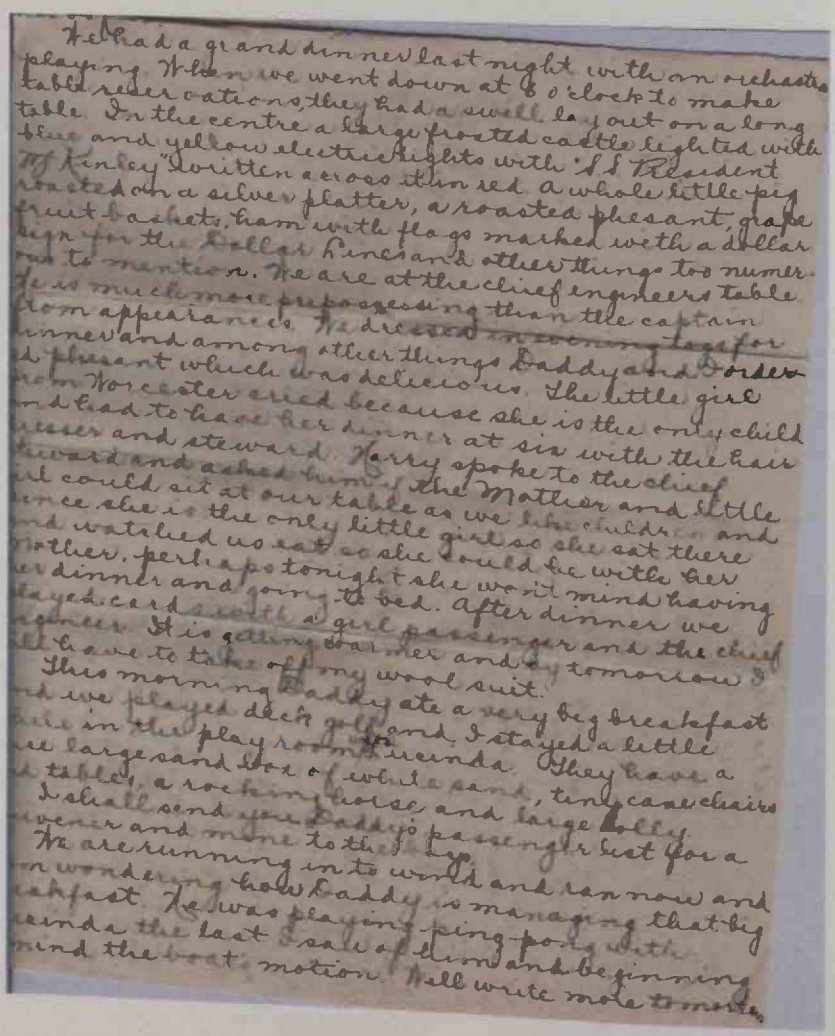
[Second Letter from Ella- written Jan 19 as steamed toward Havana]

We had a grand dinner last night with an orchestra playing. When we went down at 6 o'clock to make table reservations, they had a swell lay out on a long table. In the centre a large frosted castle lighted with blue and yellow electric lights with "S.S. President McKinley" written across it in red. A whole pig roasted on a silver platter, a roasted pheasant, grape fruit baskets, ham with flags marked with a dollar sign for the Dollar Line and other things too numerous to mention. We are at the chief engineer's table. He is much more prepossessing than the captain from appearances. We dressed in evening togs for dinner and among other things, Daddy and I ordered pheasant which was delicious. The little girl from Worcester cried because she is the only child and had to have her dinner at six with the hair dresser and steward. Harry spoke to the chief steward and asked him if the Mother and little girl could sit at our table as we like children and since she is the only little girl so she sat there and watched us eat so she could be with her mother, perhaps tonight she won't mind having her dinner and going to bed. After dinner we played cards with a girl passenger and the chief engineer. It is getting warmer and by tomorrow I will have to take off my wool suit.

This morning Daddy ate a very big breakfast and we played deck golf and I stayed a little while in the play room with Lucinda. They have a nice large sand box of white sand, tiny cane chairs and tables, a rocking horse and a large dolly.

I shall send you Daddy's passenger list for a souvenir and mine to the boys.

We are running in to the wind and ran now and I am wondering how Daddy is managing that big breakfast. He was playing ping pong with Lucinda the last I saw of him and beginning to mind the boat's motion. Will write more tomorrow.



[Second Letter from Ella continued]

Saturday Morn **[Jan 20]**

It was a bit rolly this morning and I did not feel so good. Ate a small breakfast and have been watching the swimmers since. It is real warm now and I have been on deck without a coat.

Last night they had movies, a comedy the name of which I don't remember and "The Little Giant" **[1933 movie with Edward G. Robinson and Mary Astor]** which was very good. They say the dancing girls are all sick this morning and have not been out for practice. Daddy seems to be standing it well and ate a big breakfast, He is now playing ping pong with Lucinda. She was in for a swim and did not feel good after.

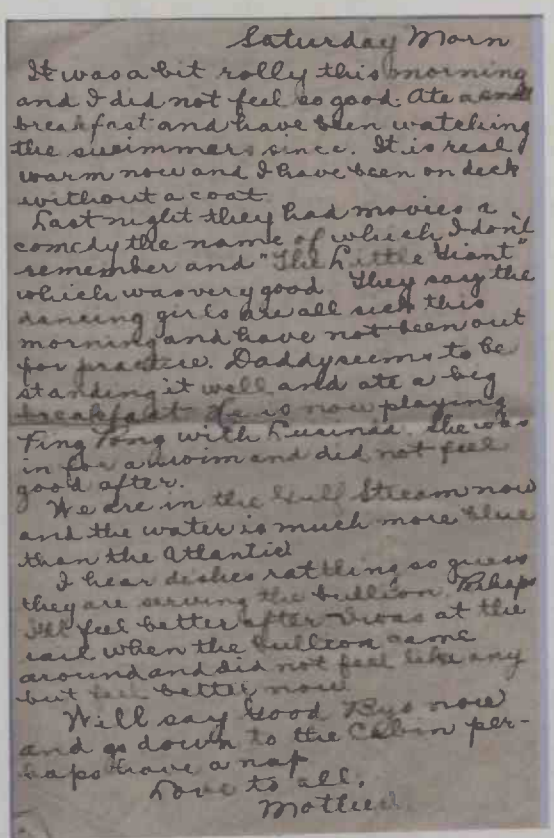
We are in the Gulf Stream now and the water is much more blue than the Atlantic.

I hear dishes rattling so guess they are serving the bullion. Perhaps I'll feel better after. I was at the rail when the bullion came around and did not feel like any but feel better now.

Will say Good Bye now and go down to the cabin perhaps have a nap.

Love to all,

Mother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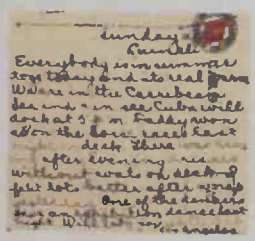
Will say Good Bye now and go down to the Cabin perhaps have a nap.
Love to all,
Mother

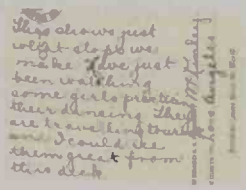
[Back of Postcard from Ella written Sunday Jan. 21st]

Sunday after Lunch

Everybody is in summer togs today and it's real warm. We are in the Caribbean Sea and can see Cuba. Will dock at 5 p.m. Daddy won a $ on the horse races last night on deck. There was dancing after. Evening dresses without coats on deck. I felt lots better after a nap yesterday. One of the dancers gave an exhibition dance last night. Will look for a letter at Los Angeles.



This shows just what stops we make. Have just been watching some girls practicing their dancing. They are traveling tourist and I could see them great from the deck.



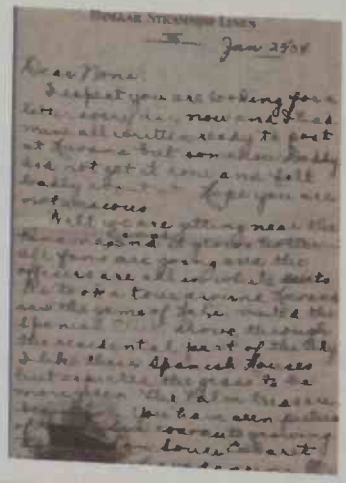
[Third Letter from Ella written Tues. Jan. 23rd]

Dear Nona:

Jan. 23/34

I expect you are looking for a letter every day now and I had mine all written ready to post at Havana but somehow Daddy did not get it done and felt badly about it. Hope you are not anxious.

Well we are getting near the Panama Canal and it grows hotter. All fans are going and the officers are all in white suits. We took a tour around Havana, saw the game of Hi Li, visited the Spanish Club, drove through the residential part of the city. I like their Spanish houses but expected the grass to be more green. The palm trees are beautiful. You have seen pictures of them. Saw coconuts growing. Went to San Souci Cabaret where they have dancing. It was a pretty place, which I wrote Florence about.



Passengers relaxing on deck.

Deck Golf

Chapter 3 – Panama Canal- January 25th 1934

***"The atmosphere of the President Liners is democratic in the freedom from superficial and annoying shipboard regulations."* from the Dollar Steamship Lines brochure 1934**

The trip to the entrance of the Panama Canal from Havana was 997 nautical miles. The President McKinley disembarked from Havana harbor sometime in the mid to late afternoon of Monday, January 22nd. After over 60 hours, they arrived in Limon Bay near Cristobal, Panama where ships approached the Canal entrance.

Harry and Ella were going through the canal 20 years after it opened in 1914. It was built by the United States between May 1904 and August 1914 after Panama granted the U.S. rights to build and indefinitely administer it. Almost 6,000 workers died in the construction efforts due mainly to malaria and yellow fever. A ship going through the Canal cut the 14,000 mile trip to LA/San Francisco around Cape Horn in South America by almost 60% to about 6,000 miles.

On December 31, 1999 the U.S. turned control of the Panama Canal over to Panama which now runs it and guarantees its permanent neutrality. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panama_Canal for more interesting information on the Canal.

The Panama Canal is only about 50 land miles wide (40 nautical miles), so it took the President McKinley only around 8 to 10 hours to traverse it.

They arrived at Limon Bay at 7 AM on the Thursday, January 25th. Both arose early to see their approach through the Bay to three sets of the Gatun locks which elevated the ship 85 feet up to the level of the man-made Lake Gatun. They could see the small town of Cristobal off to their left on the south side of the Bay. It was very hot and humid throughout the Canal Zone, but they did get cooler breezes as they went through Lake Gatun. They saw lush foliage and came within a few feet of land on both sides in spots. Harry said he "could almost kiss a girl on the bank". But, they saw few people along the shores.

Ella speculated that the fee for the ship to go through was $5,000 or even $10,000. Today, the average fee for all ships is $54,000, so that translates into close to her lower figure of $5,000.

After Lake Gatun, they went into the natural Chagres River which took them to the narrower Gaillard Cut and to the final two locks that dropped the ship back down to sea level. They passed under the Centennial Bridge and anchored off of Balboa.

Balboa is and was a section of Panama City where the canal administration buildings were situated. They went ashore there and took a 3-hour auto tour of Panama City, both the old and new parts of the city. Harry noted that the people were of all "known races- native Indian, Negro, Spanish, French, English, Italian, American, Japanese, Chinese, etc." As in Havana, they were again pestered by men and boys selling their wares, this time beads, coconuts, and Panama hats. Harry bought one of the hats ($3.50!) and Ella got him some silk pajamas. Ella got a string of beads with tiny elephants which were probably made of white bone.

Elephant beads bought in Panama owned by Nona Peck today.

They departed from Panama on midnight of Thursday the 25th, and headed back north toward Los Angeles.

There are four postcards they bought in Panama City but didn't mail separately. They are shown below. Harry wrote five more letters about their Canal Zone visit and Ella one. These follow on the next pages.

[Panama Postcards]

Hotel Central, Panama City (Oldest and Most Famous)

The Cathedral Ruins, Old Panama

[written on back] We saw this old ruin. It was a monastery built by the Roman Catholic Spaniards. The Old City of Panama was destroyed by English pirates about 300 years ago. They were after Spanish gold- gold the Spanish had taken by force of arms from the natives, so it was pirate taking from pirate. The city of Panama is 7 miles north of this one.

Gatun Spillway, Panama Canal

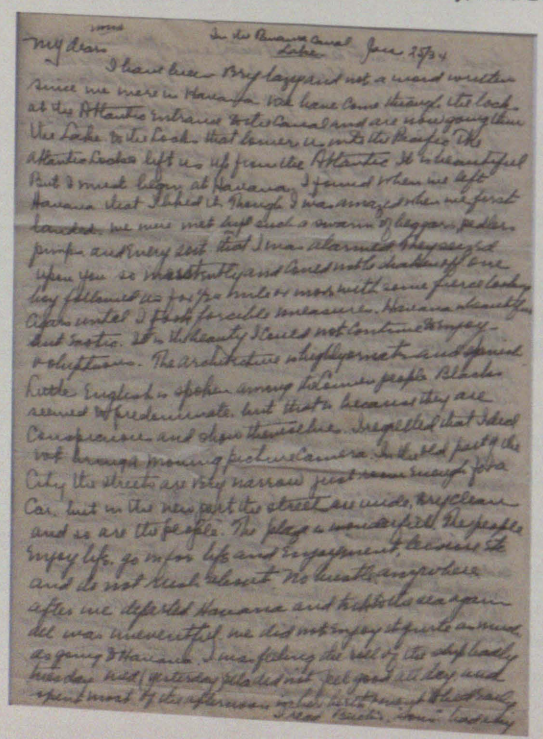
S.S. President Hoover

[written on back] Dear Nona, We are getting our mail ready to post on Los Angeles tomorrow morning. We will be glad to get off the ship for a while and how glad we shall be to get letters from our dear ones. It seems a long time since we heard from or saw you. This **[picture above, on the postcard]** is not our ship, but is a little like it. How are you dearie? We heard by radio that it was cold again, but we have had it hot until yesterday. It is cool now, but we are in summer clothes all the time. It seems funny does it not that we should be so hot when you are having it cold. But winter is better than being so hot have to lie down. Love from Daddy

[Letter 4 from Harry] In the Panama Canal Lake Jan. 25/34

My dear Nona,

I have been very lazy and not a word written since we were in Havana. We have come through the locks at the Atlantic entrance to the Canal and are now going through the Lake to the locks that lower us into the Pacific. The Atlantic Locks left us up from the Atlantic. It is beautiful. But I must begin at Havana. I found when we left Havana that I liked it though I was amazed when we first landed. We were met by a swarm of beggars, peddlers, pimps, and every sort that I was alarmed. They seized upon you so insistently and could not be shaken off. One boy followed us for ½ a mile or more with some fierce looking cigars until I took forcible measures. Havana is beautiful but exotic. It is the beauty I could not continue to enjoy-voluptuous. The architecture is highly ornate and Spanish. Little English is spoken among the common people. Blacks seemed to predominate, but that is because they are conspicuous and show themselves. I regretted that I did not bring a moving picture camera. In the old part of the city the streets are very narrow, just room enough for a car, but in the new part the streets are wide. Very clean, and so are the people. The plaza is wonderful, The people enjoy life, go in for life and enjoyment, leisure etc., and do not rush about. No hustle anywhere. After we departed Havana and took to the sea again all was uneventful. We did not enjoy it quite as much as going to Havana. I was feeling the roll of the ship badly Tuesday. Wed. (yesterday) Ella did not feel good all day, and spent most of the afternoon in her berth. I went to bed early, read Buck's "Sons", Had my

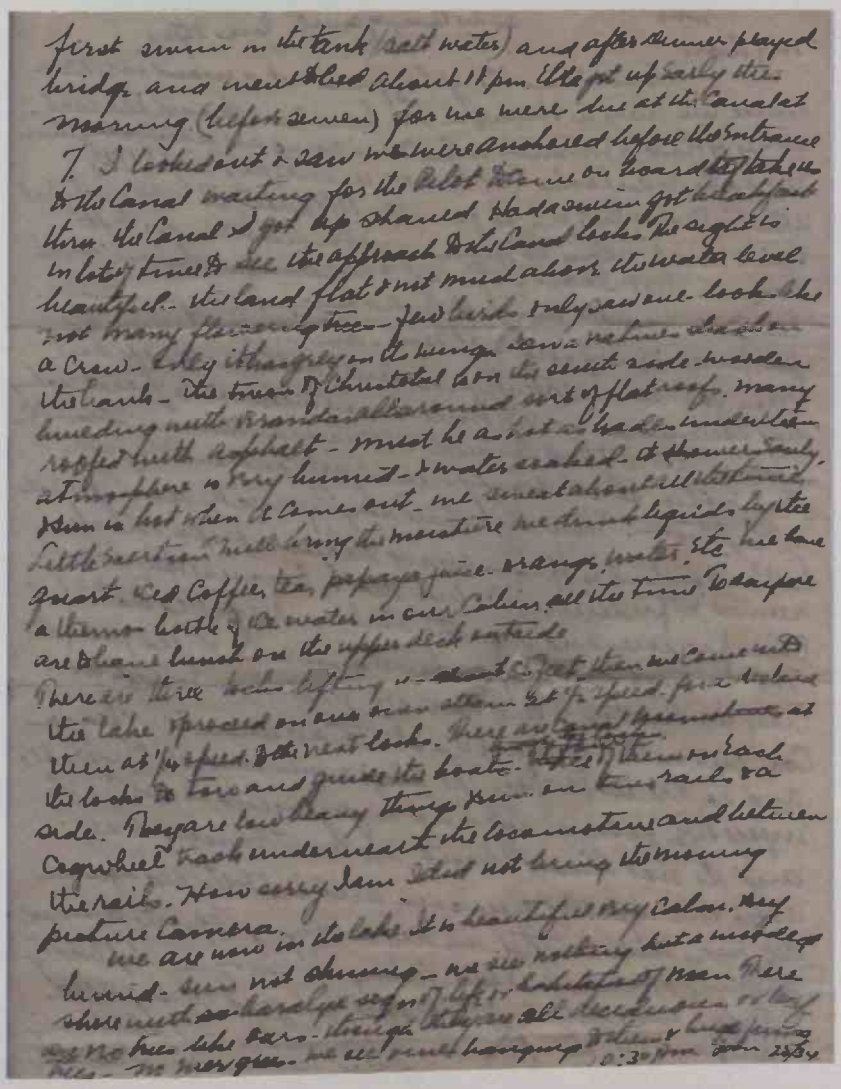


[Letter 4 from Harry continued]

first swim in the tank (salt water) and after dinner played bridge and went to bed about 11 p.m. Ella got up early this morning (before seven) for we were due at the canal at 7. I looked out + saw we were anchored before the entrance of the Canal waiting for the Pilot to come on board to take us through the Canal. I got up shaved. Had a swim got breakfast in lots of time to see the approach to the Canal locks. The sight is beautiful., the land flat + not much above the water level. Not many flowering trees- few birds, only saw one- looks like a crow- only it has grey on its wings. Saw a native's shack on the bank- the town of Cristobal is on the south side, wooden buildings with verandas all around, sort of flat roofs, many roofed with asphalt- must be hot as Hades under them. Atmosphere is very humid- + water soaked- it showers easily + sun is hot when it comes out. We sweat all the time. Little exertion + will bring out the moisture. We drink liquids by the quart- iced coffee, tea, papaya juice, oranges, water, etc. We have a thermos bottle of ice water in our cabin all the time. Today we are to have lunch on the upper deck outside.

There are three locks lifting us about 85 feet then we come into the lake + proceed on our own steam up ½ speed for a distance then at ¼ speed to the next locks. There are canal locomotives at the locks to tow and guide the boats through the locks, four of them on each side. They are low heavy things + run on two rails + a cogwheel track underneath the locomotive and between the rails. How sorry I am I did not bring the moving picture camera.

We are now in the lake. It is beautiful, very calm, very humid- sun not shining- we see nothing but a wooded shore with hardly a SIGN OF MAN. There are no trees like ours- though they are all deciduous or leaf trees. No evergreens. We see vines hanging to them + huge ferns. 10:30 a.m. Jan. 25/34



[Letter 5 from Harry] Panama Canal Jan 25/34

My dear Nona,

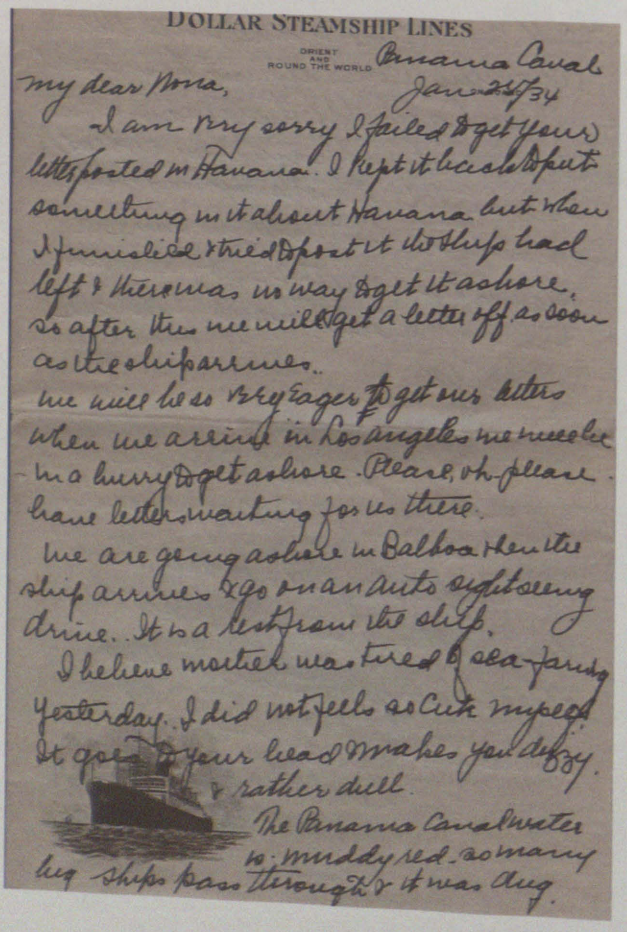
I am very sorry I failed to get your letter posted in Havana. I kept it back to put something in it about Havana, but when I finished + tried to post it the ship had left + there was no way to get it ashore. So after this we will get a letter off as soon as the ship arrives.

We will be so very eager to get our letters when we arrive in Los Angeles. We will be in a hurry to get ashore. Please, oh, please have letters waiting for us there.

We are going ashore in Balboa when the ship arrives + go on an auto sight-seeing drive. It is a rest from the ship.

I believe mother was tired of sea-faring yesterday. I did not feel so cute myself. It goes to your head + makes you dizzy + rather dull.

The Panama Canal water is muddy red- so many big ships pass through + it was dug


DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

ORIENT AND ROUND THE WORLD

Panama Canal

my dear Nona, Jan 25/34

I am very sorry I failed to get your letter posted in Havana. I kept it back to put something in it about Havana but when I finished & tried to post it the ships had left & there was no way to get it ashore. So after this we will get a letter off as soon as the ship arrives.

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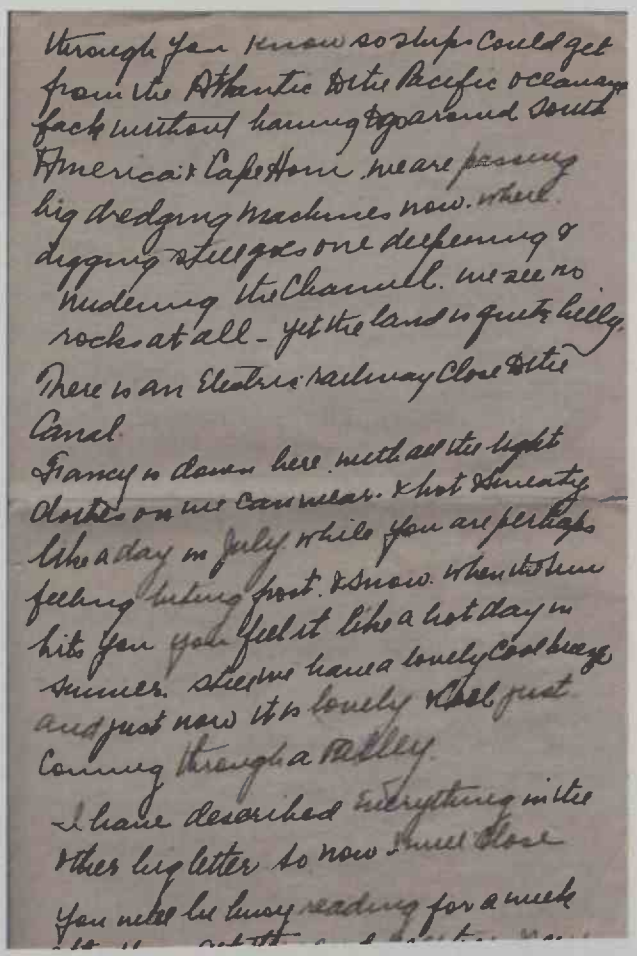
The Panama Canal water is muddy red- so many big ships pass through & it was dug.

[Letter 5 from Harry continued]

Through you know so ships could get from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean and back without having to go around South America + Cape Horn. We are passing big dredging machines now, where digging still goes on deepening + widening the channel. We see no rocks at all- yet the land is quite hilly. There is an electric railway close to the Canal.

Fancy us down here with all the light clothes on we can wear + hot + sweaty like a day in July, while you are perhaps feeling biting frost + snow. When the sun hits you, you feel it like a hot day in summer. Still we have a lovely cool breeze and just now it is lovely + cool just coming through a valley.

I have described everything in the other big letter, so now I will close. You will be busy reading for a week after you get this and mother's + my



[Letter 5 from Harry continued]

Havana letter.

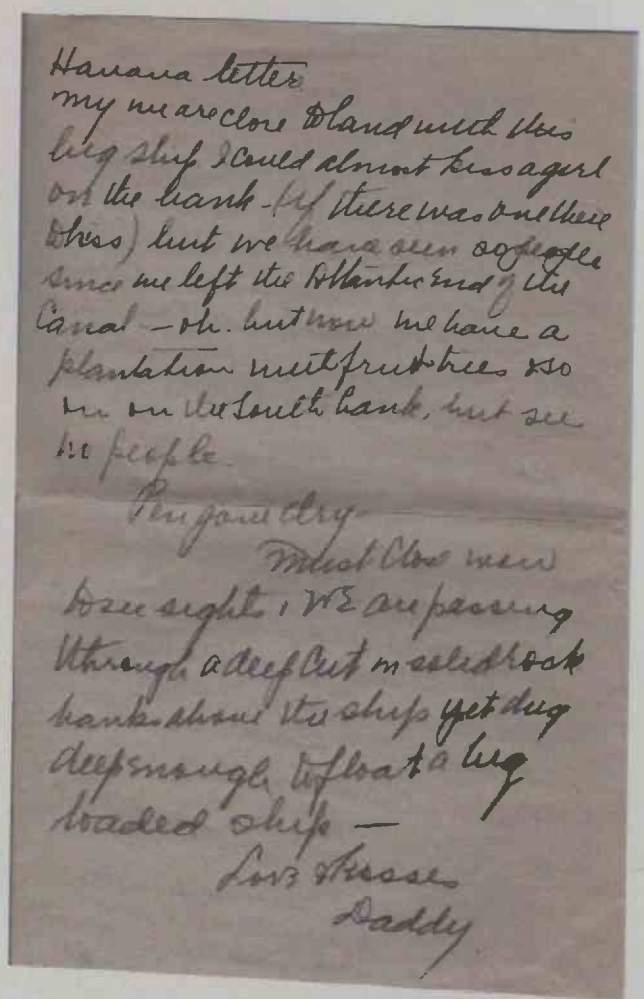
My we are close to land with this big ship. I could almost kiss a girl on the bank (if there was one to kiss), but we have seen 20 people since we left the Atlantic end of the Canal- oh, but now we have a plantation with fruit trees + so on on the south bank, but see no people.

[written in pencil] Pen gone dry-

Must close now to see sights. We are passing through a deep cut in solid rock. Banks above the ship yet dug deep enough to float a big loaded ship-

Love + kisses

Daddy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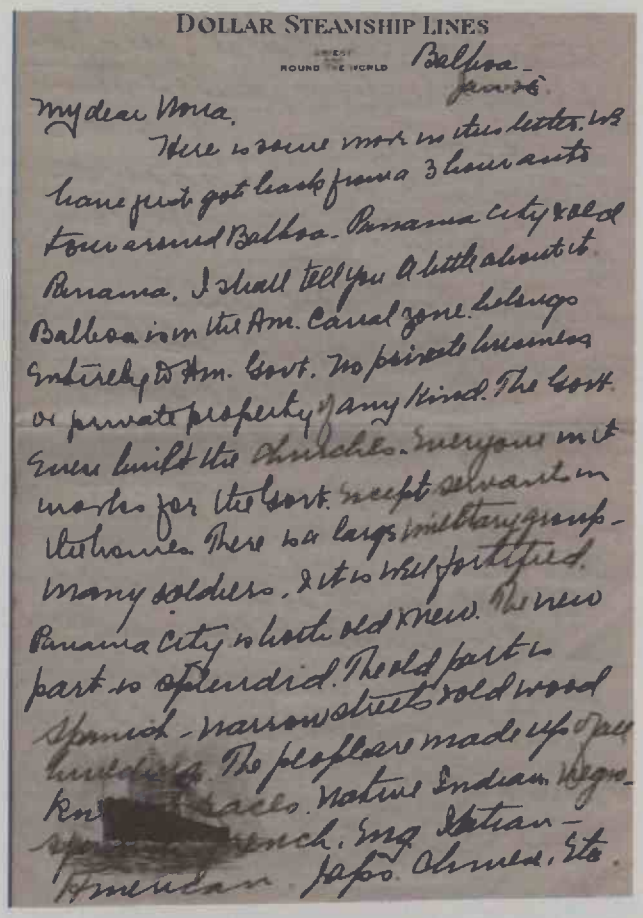
Love + kisses
Daddy

[Letter 6 from Harry]

Balboa Jan. 25

My dear Nona,

Here is some more in this letter. We have just got back from a 3 hour tour around Balboa, Panama City + Old Panama. I shall tell you a little about it. Balboa is in the Am. Canal Zone, belongs entirely to Am. Govt. No private business or private property of any kind. The Govt. even built the churches. Everyone in it works for the Govt. except servants in the houses. There is a large military group- many soldiers + it is well fortified. Panama City is both old + new. The new part is splendid. The old part is Spanish- narrow streets + old wood buildings. The people made up of all know races - native Indian, Negro, Spanish, French, English, Italian, American, Japs, Chinese, etc.


DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

ROUND THE WORLD

Balboa
Jan 25

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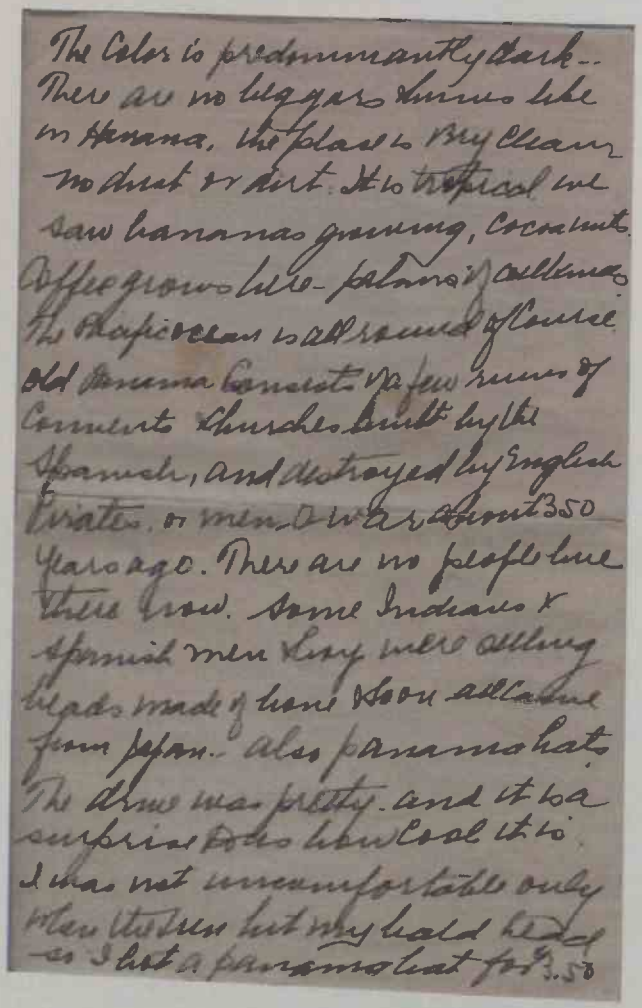
[Letter 6 from Harry continued]

The color is predominantly dark. There are no beggars like in Havana. The place is very clean, no dust or dirt. It is tropical. We saw bananas growing, coconuts. Coffee grows here- palms of all kinds. The Pacific Ocean is all around of course. Old Panama consists of a few ruins of convents + churches built by the Spanish, and destroyed by English pirates, or men-o-war about 350 years ago. There are no people living there now. Some Indians + Spanish men were selling beads made of bone. Soon all came from Japan. Also Panama hats. The drive was pretty and it is a surprise to us how cool it is. I was not uncomfortable only when the sun hit my bald head, so I bought a Panama hat for $3.50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[Letter 6 from Harry continued]

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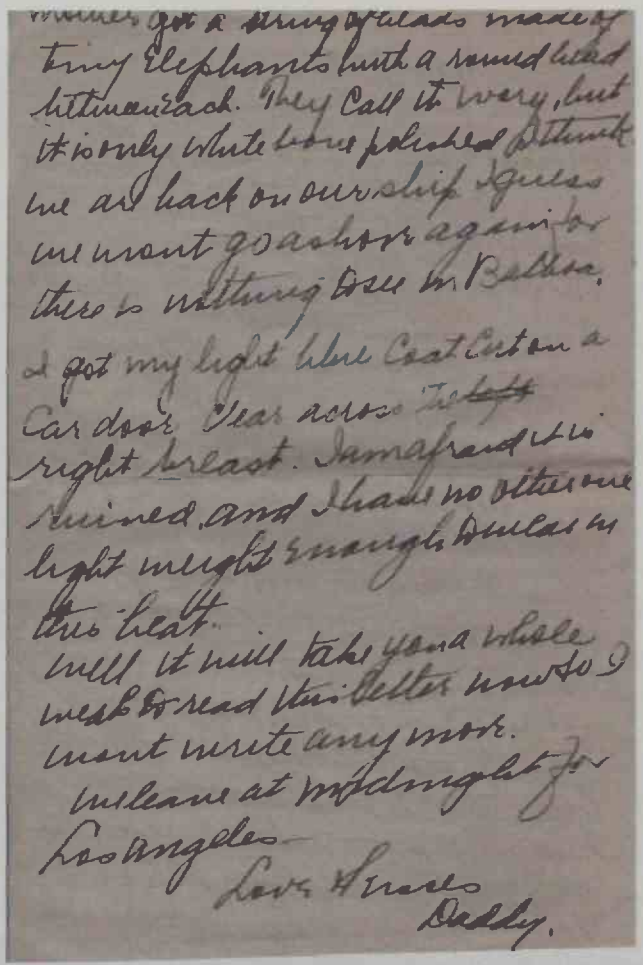
We are back on our ship. I guess we won't go ashore again for there is nothing in Balboa. I got my light blue coat cut on a car door- tear across the right breast. I am afraid it is ruined and I have no other light weight enough to wear in this heat.

Well it will take you a whole week to read this letter now, so I won't write any more.

we leave at midnight for Los Angeles-

Love + Kisses,

Daddy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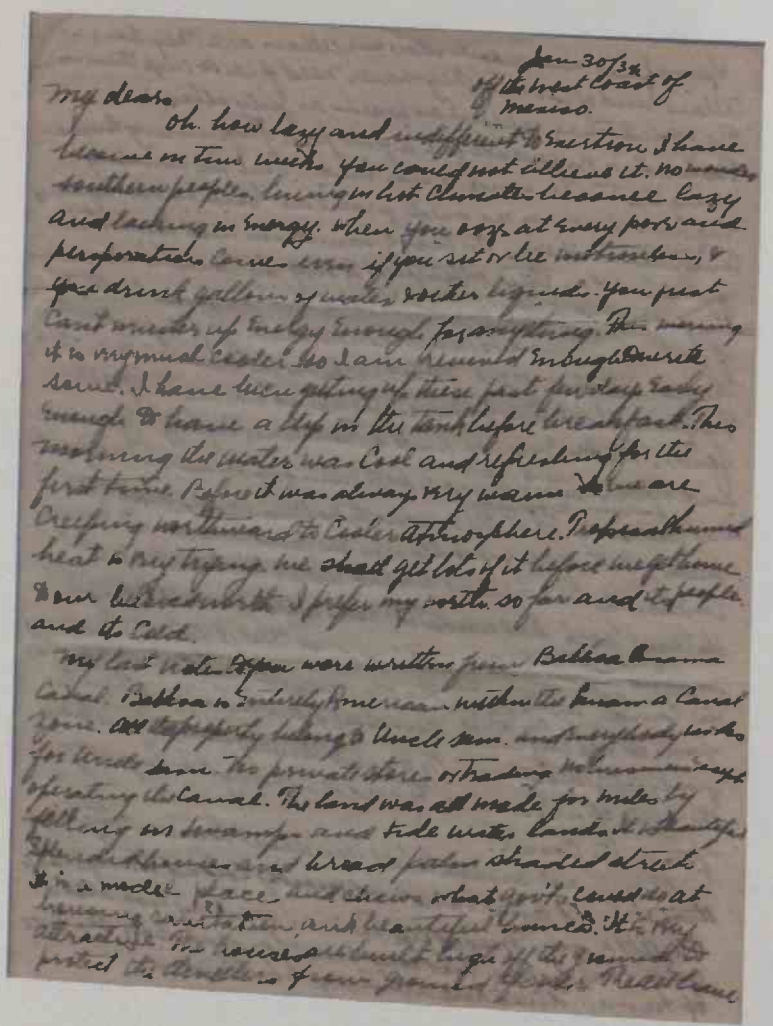
[Letter 7 from Harry]

Jan 30/34, off the west coast of Mexico

My dears, Oh how lazy and indifferent to exertion I have become in two weeks. You could not believe it. No wonder southern people living in hot climates become lazy and lacking in energy. When you ooze at every pore and perspiration comes even if you sit or lie motionless, + drink gallons of water + other liquids, you just can't muster up energy enough for anything. This morning it is very much cooler so I am revived enough to write some. I have been getting up these past few days early enough to have a dip in the tank before breakfast. This morning the water was cool and refreshing for the first time. Before, it was always very warm. So we are creeping up northward to cooler atmosphere. Tropical humid heat is trying. We shall get lots of it before we get home to our beloved north. I prefer my north so far and its people and its cold.

My last notes to you were written from Balboa, Panama Canal. Balboa is entirely American within the Panama Canal zone. All the property belongs to Uncle Sam, and everybody works for Uncle Sam. No private stores or trading. No business except operating the Canal. The land was all made for miles by filling the swamps and tide water lands. It is beautiful. Splendid houses and broad palm-shaded streets. It is a model place and shows what gov'ts. could do at housing sanitation and beautiful homes. It is very attractive. The houses are built high off the ground to protect the dwellers from ground fever. They all have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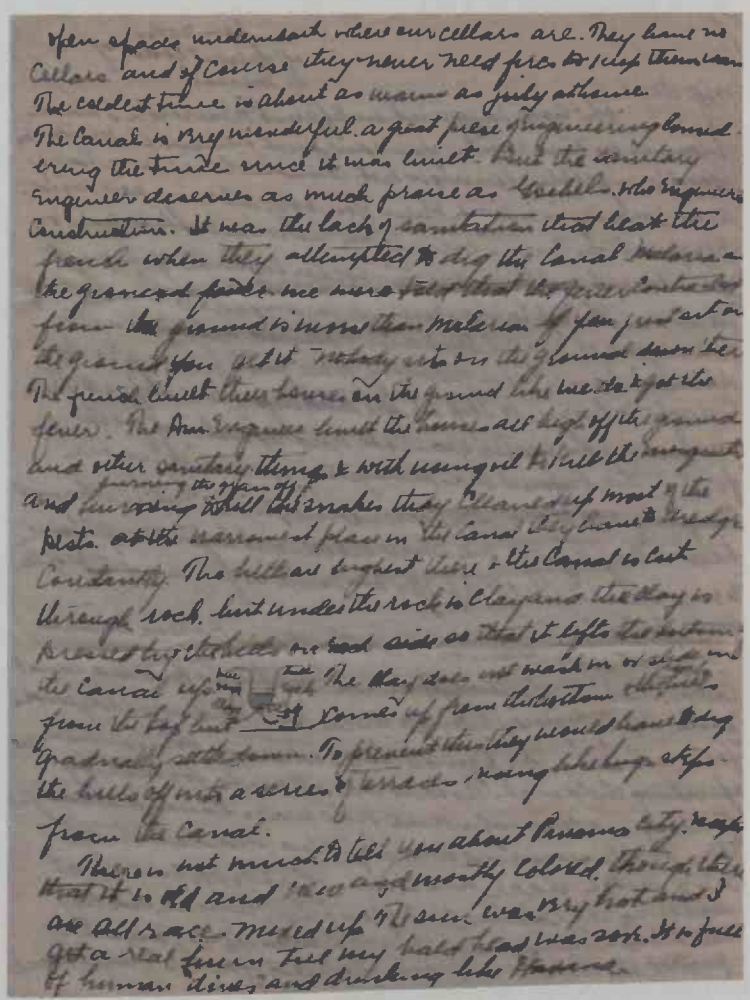
[Letter 7 from Harry continued]

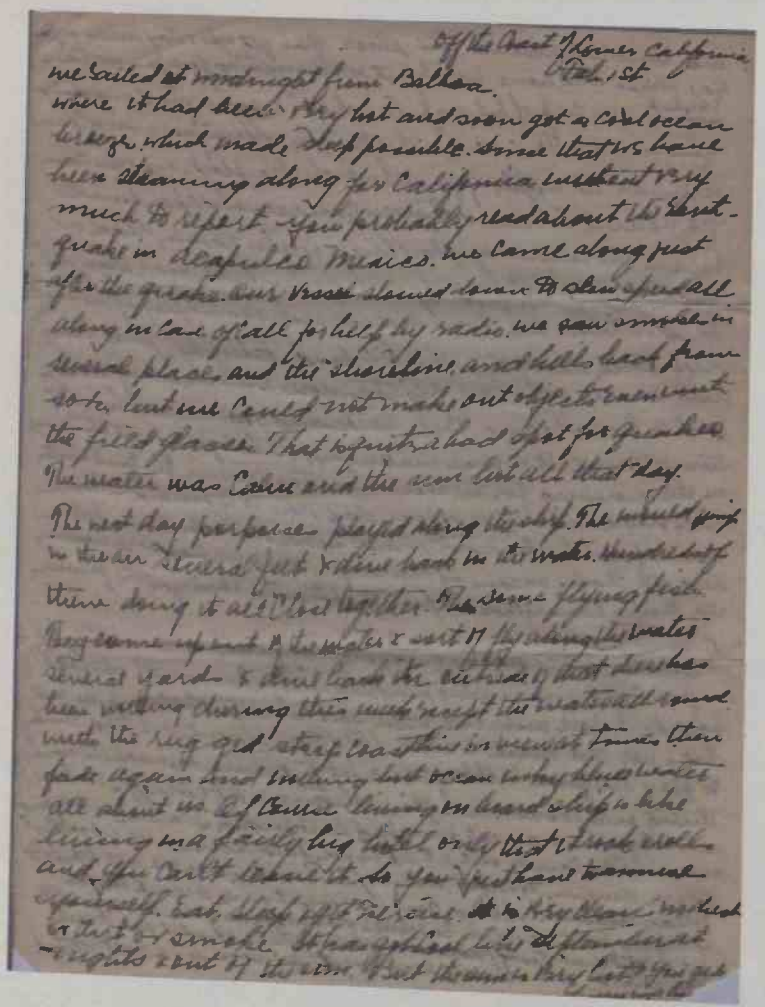
open spaces underneath where our cellars are. They have no cellars and of course they never need fires to keep them warm. The coldest time is about as warm as July at home. The canal is very wonderful, a great piece of engineering considering the time since it was built. But the sanitary engineer deserves as much praise as Goethals who engineered construction.**[George Washington Goethals was the U.S. Army colonel and civil engineer who was the chief engineer of the canal.]** It was the lack of sanitation that beat the French when they attempted to dig the canal. Malaria and ground fever- we were told that the fever contracted from the ground was worse than malaria. If you just sit on the ground, you get it. Nobody sits on the ground down here. The French built their houses all high off the ground and other sanitary things + with using oil to kill the mosquitoes, and burning the grass off to kill the snakes they cleaned up most of the pests. At the narrowest place in the canal, they have to dredge constantly. The hills are highest there + the canal is cut through rock , but under the rock is clay and the clay is pressed by the hills on each side so that it lifts the bottom of the canal up. The clay does not wash in or slide in from the top but comes up from the bottom + the rock hills gradually settle down. To prevent this they have to dig the hills off into a series of terraces rising like huge steps from the canal.

There is not much to tell you about Panama City except that it is old and new, and mostly colored, though there are all races mixed up. The sun was very hot and I got a real burn till my bald head was sore. It is full of human "dives" and drinking like Havana.



[Letter 8 from Harry] off the coast of lower California, Feb. 1st

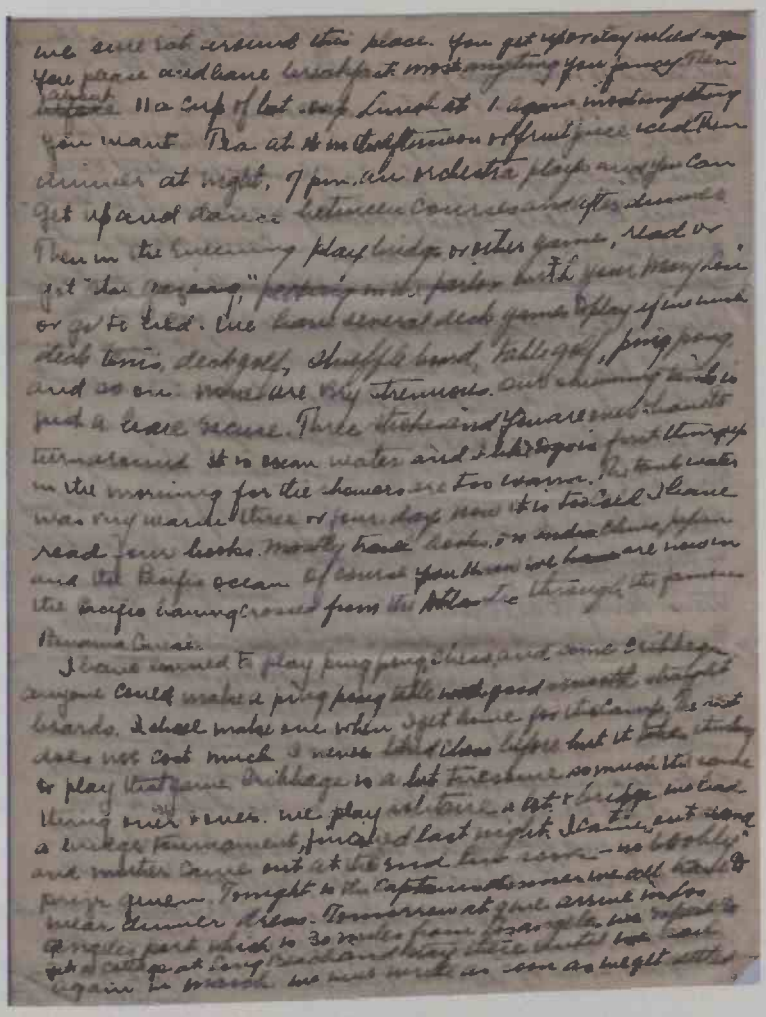
We sailed at midnight from Balboa where it had been very hot and soon got a cool ocean breeze, which made sleep possible. Since that we have been steaming along for California without very much to report. You probably read about the earthquake in Acapulco, Mexico. We came along just after the quake. Our vessel slowed down to slow speed all along in case of a call for help by radio. We saw smoke in several places and the shoreline and hills back from ?, but we could not make out objects even with the field glasses. That is quite a bad spot for quakes. The water was calm and the sun hot all day. The next day, porpoises played along the ship. They would jump in the air several feet + dive back in the water. Hundreds of them doing it all close together. The same flying fish. They come up out of the water + sort of fly along the water several yards + dive back in. Outside of that, there has been nothing during the week except the water all round, with rugged steep coastline in view at times, then fade again and nothing but ocean, inky blue water all about us. Of course, living on board ship is like living in a fairly big hotel, only that it rocks + rolls and you can't leave it. So you just have to amuse yourself. Eat, sleep, + get exercise. It is very clean, no dust or dirt or smoke. It has got cool like September at nights + out of the sun. But the sun is very hot + you get a burn in a hurry.



[Letter 8 from Harry continued]

We sure eat around this place. You get up or stay in bed as you please and have breakfast: most anything you fancy. Then about 11 a cup of hot soup. Lunch at 1. Again most anything you want. Tea at 4 in the afternoon, or fruit juice iced, then dinner at night, 7 pm. An orchestra plays and you can get up and dance between courses and after dinner. Then in the evening, play bridge or other games, read, or go star gazing, "petting in the parlor with your Mary-Lou" or go to bed. We have several deck games to play if we wish- deck tennis, deck golf, shuffle board, table golf, ping pong, and so on. None are very strenuous. Our swimming tank is just a bare excuse. Three strokes and you are over + have to turn around. It is ocean water and I like to go in first thing up in the morning for the showers are too warm. The tank water was very warm three or four days, now it is cold. I have read four books, mostly travel books on India, China, Japan, and the Pacific Ocean. Of course you know we are in the Pacific having crossed from the Atlantic through the famous Panama canal.

I have learned to play ping pong, chess, and some cribbage. Anyone could make a ping pong table with good smooth straight boards. I shall make one when I get home for the camp. The rest does not cost much. I never liked chess before, but it takes thinking to play that game. Cribbage is a bit tiresome so much the same thing over + over. We play solitaire a lot + bridge. We had a bridge tournament, finished last night. I came out second and mother came out at the end low score- no "booby" prize given. Tonight is the Captain's dinner. We all have to wear dinner dress. Tomorrow at 9 we arrive in Los Angeles port which is 30 miles from Los Angeles. We expect to get a cottage at Long Beach and stay there until we sail again in March. We will write as soon as we get settled.



[Fourth Letter from Ella written Thurs. Jan. 25th]

They say it costs $5,000 to take this ship through the Canal and takes eight hours. The passengers are going to eat on deck, so they will not miss any of the sights and it will be cooler. Will write you about it later.

Harry & Ella eating on deck with Mrs. Lippard & 9 year old Lucinda Lippard

Thursday 7:15 a.m.

We are just entering the Panama Canal. Some say it costs $10,000 to take this boat through so I don't know which is right. It is very hot and Daddy is taking a morning swim. We are going to take a trip around Panama and will write you about it.

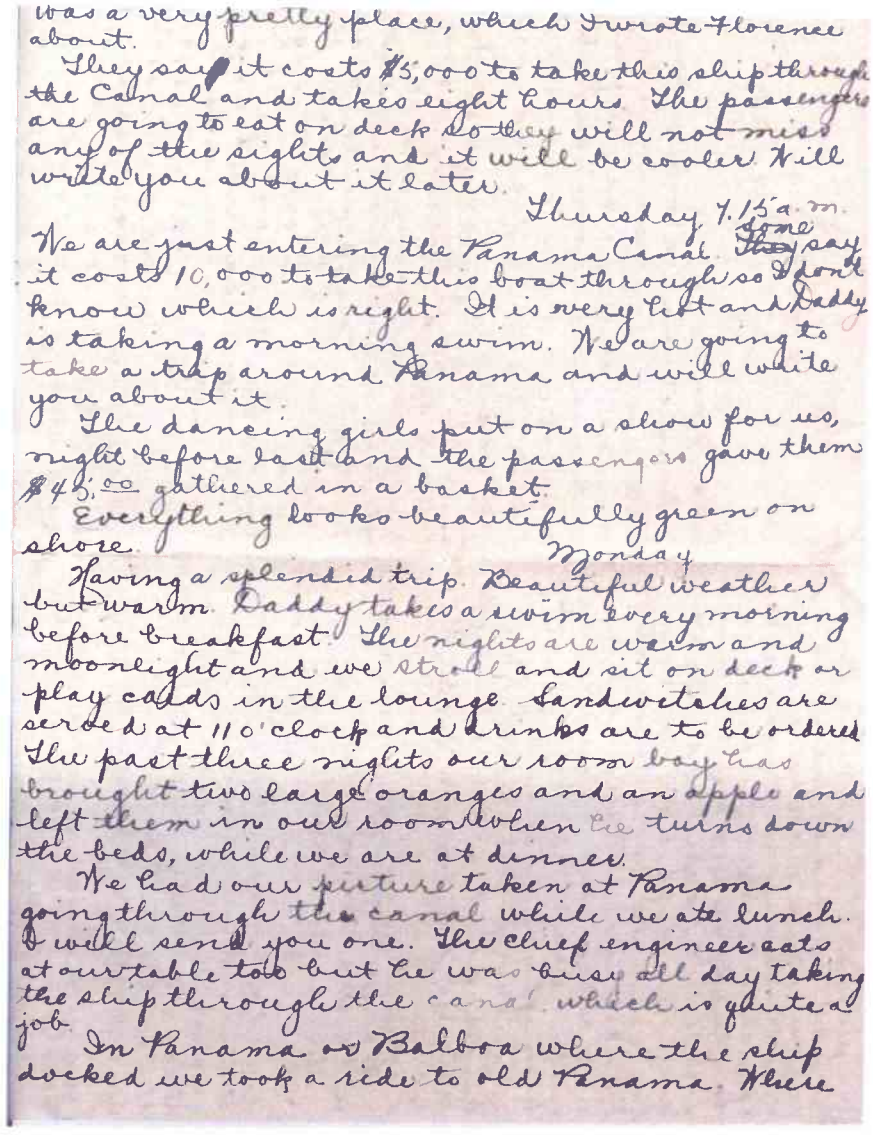
The dancing girls put on a show for us, night before last and the passengers gave them $45.00 gathered in a basket.

Everything looks beautifully green on shore.

Monday

Having a splendid trip. Beautiful weather but warm. Daddy takes a swim every morning before breakfast. The nights are warm and moonlit and we stroll and sit on deck or play cards in the lounge. Sandwiches are served at 11 o'clock and drinks are to be ordered. The past three nights our room boy has brought two large oranges and an apple and left them in our room when he turns down the beds, while we are at dinner.

In Panama or Balboa where the ship docked we took a ride to Old Panama, where



was a very pretty place, which I wrote Florence about.

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We had our picture taken at Panama going through the canal while we ate lunch. I will send you one. The chief engineer eats at our table too but he was busy all day taking the ship through the canal which is quite a job.

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[Fourth Letter from Ella continued]

we were pestered with men and boys selling beads, panama hats, coconuts, etc. Drove around new Panama, saw the gold altar of a church. Getting out of the car, the door cut Daddy's coat just like a razor blade, a great gash. We stopped on the way back at a shop and I bought daddy a pair of silk pajamas with a blue dragon embroidered on the pocket and he bought himself a Panama hat.

Friday we will be at Los Angeles and are looking for letters. Just think it has been two weeks then since we've had a letter.

Hope you are getting on nicely with practicing, etc.

The picture last night was "Elmer the Great" **[1933 picture with Joe E. Brown, who later joins their cruise]** and a comedy. Sunday night they had an Italian Dinner and we were supposed to be in costume, but there was only two people and the orchestra and Lucinda who wore her Japanese silk pajamas and paper flowers in her hair. It was fun ordering dinner not knowing what you were getting.

Lovingly,

Mother

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Lovingly Mother

Chapter 4 – Los Angeles/Long Beach/San Francisco California- February 2nd through March 23rd 1934

"Here we are in the land of sunshine and laziness. " **Letter from Harry to Nona upon arrival in Long Beach**

The trip from the Panama Canal to Los Angeles was 2,909 nautical miles and took 8 days. Harry & Ella relaxed on board as the weather gradually moderated from hot to just warm. They exercised by swimming, walking the decks & playing some of the many games on the ship. Some of these activities are described in the last few letters in the last chapter.

They ate well. On Friday, January 26th the menu (shown at end of this chapter), included fried scallops, prime rib, boiled or mashed potatoes, and six choices of desserts. They had an Italian dinner one night and an Oriental Dinner on Monday the 29th where the chop sticks were real ivory (menu also at chapter end). They passed by the west coast of Mexico, near Acapulco, where there had been an earthquake the day before.

The President McKinley arrived in L. A. on Friday February 2nd where they disembarked and moved their belongings to a rented apartment at 1,000 East Ocean Boulevard in Long Beach, right on the ocean just south of Los Angeles.

From the back side of Apartment 9 they could walk right out on the beach or walk up and down Ocean Boulevard to the local sights such as the Municipal Auditorium and Rainbow pier which was only a couple of blocks north and Bixby Park which was a few blocks south. They didn't have a car, so they were forced to walk or take the bus or the "electric car" anywhere.

At first, they thought they'd made a mistake staying there instead of in Los Angeles, but by the time they left 6 weeks later, they were sorry to go and said they would miss their little apartment.

Their many letters from Long Beach expressed how much they missed their children & family, as well as Vermont. They did not receive many letters from Nona, maybe only a couple, and a few from young Harry Jr. Junior's were sent from Nova Scotia and came along with letters from Annie Sanford, Ella's sister who was watching the boys. Nine-year old Harry's letters were in turn sent to Nona, so I have three of them. There are no dates but the one shown below appears to the first. They are quite comical.

The two boys were having a ball in Nova Scotia, but Harry missed his "funnies" and Jim had his birthday without his parents, receiving a book bag and a ruler. The news from Nona was about her violin lessons which were going well, her sprained ankle, and a request for a new scout suit which Harry wrote back to approve.

Harry and Ella spent some time at the beach, but didn't go in much as the water was very cold. Also, Harry tended to get burned on his bald head. They took the train or electric cars to Los Angeles to shop and sightsee in "the land of make-believe" a few times, visited the orange groves in San Bernadino, and the oil wells not far away at Signal Hill. Harry was fascinated by both the productivity of the fruit groves, the cross-fertilization of the date palm trees, and the operation of the oil wells.

Right next door, by chance, they discovered Miss Shine from Boston, who had been on the President McKinley with them. So they visited her and her aunt for dinner a few times, including some tasty Californian wines.

They attended band concerts and other events at the Municipal Auditorium shown below just a few minutes away. The auditorium was built in 1932, just 2 years before they arrived. It was protected by the half-circular Rainbow Pier inside of which was a lagoon where people could boat & swim. The Auditorium was huge, with 8,000 seats. In the late 1940's the lagoon was filled in as was much of the oceanfront behind their apartment. See this link for more on the Auditorium and Pier, including some interesting pictures: http://www.millikanalumni.com/Pike/MunicipalAud.html.

On February 4th, their second night there, there was a mild earthquake, but they didn't notice it. Long Beach had experienced a much stronger quake with a magnitude of 6.4 just a year before in March 1933. Their apartment still showed some damage as did many other buildings. Because so many schools were damaged, the school kids in Long Beach still attended school only for ½ day as they shared the remaining schools.

Harry's Scottish ways re-surfaced when they were offered a chance to buy some land by a former banker from Connecticut who had moved west during the depression to try his luck at real estate. Per Harry: "They wanted us to buy a lot and told us how much money we would make, but we could not spare the money. Though the location looked excellent and I expect that in 10 or 15 years it will be valuable." It's interesting to speculate on how much that property in southern California rose in value after the Depression and is worth today!

After 44 days at their beloved apartment #9 in Long Beach, they boarded a steamer to San Francisco on Monday, March 19th. The trip took 2 days to go the 351 nautical miles, a trip that took me only one long day by car recently (from S.F. to L.A., that is). They stayed 3 days in San Francisco, eating & sleeping on the ship.

Harry & Ella each wrote only one letter from San Francisco. Harry described their upcoming trip across the Pacific and sent Nona a list of addresses and dates so she could send letters to them. He bought her a blue-gray "shaggy" wool sweater and shipped it to her to use while skating. He acknowledged Mr. Warner's (Nona's violin instructor's) request for a bigger violin, but said that it would have to wait until he returned.

Ella described their sight-seeing in the Bay Area, including a visit to Mr. & Mrs. Laurie Sanford's house in Woodside. They took a drive to Palo Alto and around the campus of Stanford University.

By Friday, the 23rd of March, they were ready to set off across the Pacific Ocean toward Honolulu. By this time, they had sent a total of 23 letters to Nona.

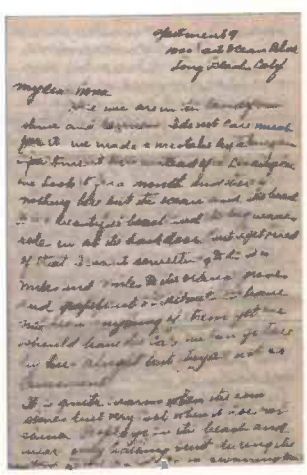
[Letter 9 from Harry] Apartment 9, 1000 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.

My dear Nona,

Here we are in the land of sunshine and laziness. I do not care much for it. We made a mistake by taking an apartment here instead of in Los Angeles. We took it for a month and there is nothing here but the ocean and the beach. It is a beautiful beach and the big waves role in at the back door. But I get tired of that. I want something to do. It is miles and miles to the orange groves and grapefruit + walnuts. We have not seen anything of them yet. We should have the car. We can go there by bus alright but they are not so convenient. **[Obviously, the rental car industry was not established there yet!]**

It is quite warm when the sun shines but very cool when it does not shine. People go on the beach and wear only bathing suits during the day time and go in swimming

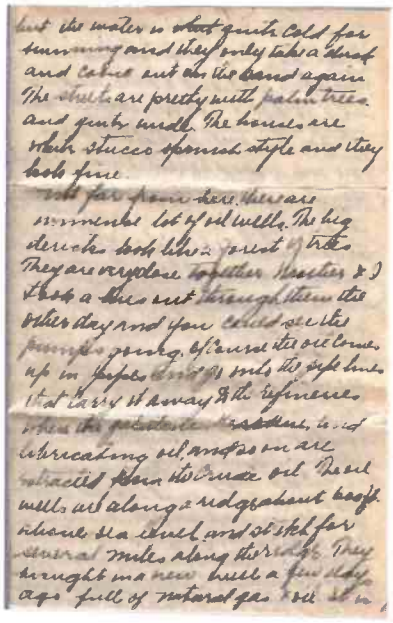
[ON THE RIGHT BELOW IS 1000 OCEAN AVE AS IT IS TODAY.]



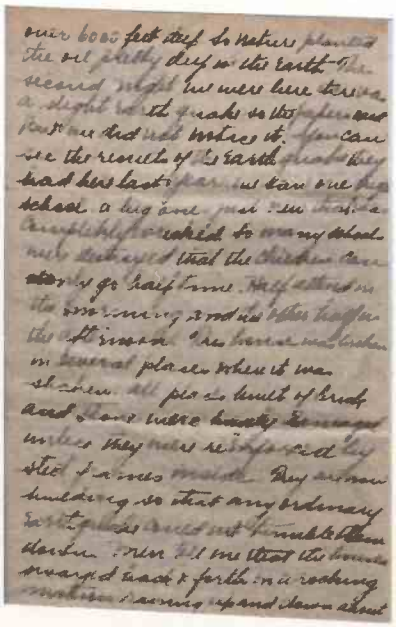
[Letter 9 from Harry continued]

but the water is quite cold for swimming and they only take a dunk and come out on the sand again. The streets are pretty with palm trees and quite wide. The houses are white stucco Spanish style and they look fine.

Not far from here, there are an immense lot of oil wells. The big derricks look like a forest of trees. They are very close together. Mother - I took a bus out through them the other day and you could see the pumps going. Of course, the oil comes up in pipes and goes into the pipe lines that carry it away to the refineries where the gasoline, kerosene, and lubricating oil, and so on are extracted from the crude oil. The oil wells are along a ridge about 600 feet above sea level and stretch for several miles along the ridge. They brought in a new well a few days ago full of natural gas + oil. It is



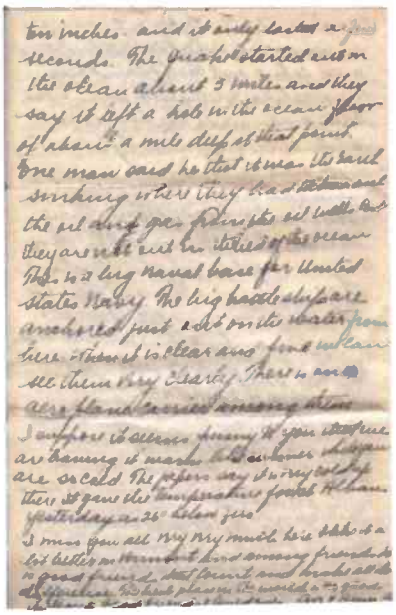
over 6,000 feet deep. So nature planted the oil pretty deep in the earth. The second night we were here there was a slight earth quake so the papers said. But we did not notice it. You can see the results of the earth quake they had here last year. We saw one high school, a big one, just new, that was completely wrecked. So many schools were destroyed that the children can only go half time. Half attend in the morning and the other half in the afternoon. This house was broken in several places where it was shaken. All places built of brick and stone were badly damaged unless they were reinforced by steel frames inside. They are now building so that any ordinary earth quake could not tumble them down. Men tell me that the houses swayed back and forth in a rocking motion raising up and down about



[Letter 9 from Harry continued]

ten inches and it only lasted a few seconds. The quake started out in the ocean about 5 miles and they say it left a hole in the ocean of about a mile deep at that point. One man said that it was the earth sinking where they had taken out the oil and gas from the oil wells. But they are not in the bed of the ocean. This is a big naval base for the United States Navy. The big battle ships are anchored just out on the water from here. When it is clear and fine we can see them very clearly. There is one aeroplane carrier among them. I suppose it seems funny to you that we are having it warm like summer, while you are so cold. The papers say it is very cold up there. It gave the temperature for St. Albans yesterday as 26 degrees below zero. I miss you all very very much here. I like it a lot better in Vermont and among friends that count and make all the difference. The best place in the world is no good without good friends + loved ones.

Love + kisses- Daddy



[Letter 5 from Ella]

My Dear Nonie:

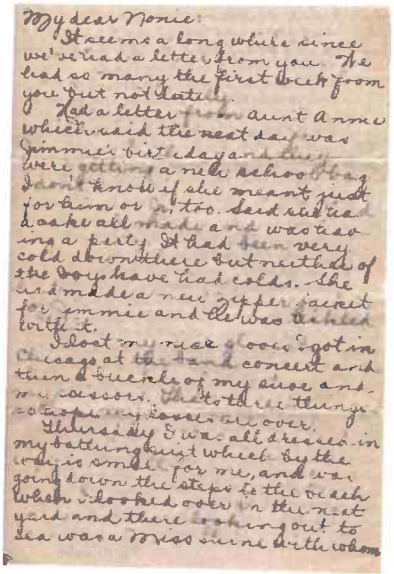
It seems a long while since we've had a letter from you. We had so many the first week from you, but not lately.

Had a letter from Aunt Annie which said the next day was Jimmie's birthday and they were getting a new school bag. I don't know if she meant just for him or Jr. too. Said she had a cake all made and was having a party. It had been very cold down there but neither of the boys have colds. She had made a new zipper jacket for Jimmie and he was tickled with it.

I lost my nice gloves I got in Chicago at the band concert and then a buckle of my shoe and my scissors. That's three things so hope my losses are over.

Thursday I was all dressed in my bathing suit which by the way is small for me, and was going down the steps to the beach when I looked over in the next yard and there looking out to sea was a Miss Shine with whom

[ON THE RIGHT BELOW IS ANOTHER PIC OF THE BEACH SIDE OF OCEAN AVE IN LONG BEACH TODAY]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It seems a long while since we've had a letter from you. We had so many the first week from you but not lately.

Had a letter from aunt Anne which said the next day was Jimmie's birthday and they were getting a new school bag. I don't know if she meant just for him or for two. Said she'd bake a cake and make a party. It had been very cold down there but neither of the boys have had colds. She said she made a new zipper jacket for Jimmie and he was thrilled with it.

I took my music lessons & got in charge at the band concert and then 2 weeks of my shoe and music lessons. That's three things completed & my lessons are over.

Thursday I was all dressed in my bathing suit when by the time it was time for me, and was going down the steps to the beach which I looked over in the next yard and there looking out to sea was a Miss Shine with whom

I had played cards and chatted on ship board. She was visiting her aunt who lives next door, so the next evening her Aunt asked us over to play bridge. We had candy and lovely wine home-made. In the afternoon I went to the band concert with them and it was announced that there would be no more week day concerts but just Sunday afternoon for 30 days. Miss Shine had been out to Beverly Hills and had seen more of the ship-board folks.

Hope Florence is not ill. Have been looking for a letter from her.

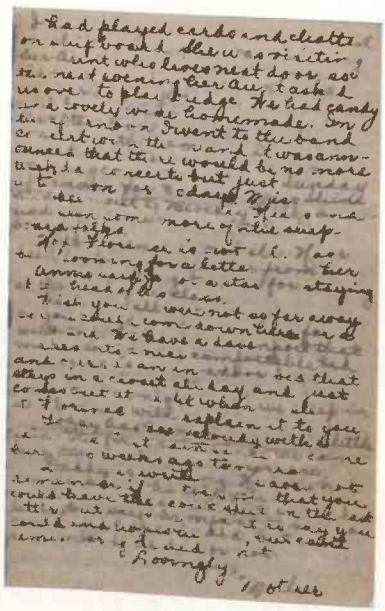
Annie said Jr. got a star for staying at the head of his class.

Wish you all were not so far away so you could come down here for a week-end. We have a davenport that makes into a nice comfortable bed and ours is an in-a-door bed that stays in a closet all day and just comes out at night when we sleep in it. Florence will explain it to you.

Today has been cloudy with a little rain. The first rain since we came here two weeks ago tomorrow.

Daddy is writing. He does not remember if he told you that you could have the scout suit in the last letter, but says he meant to say you could and hopes he did, but can't remember if he did or not.

Lovingly, Mother

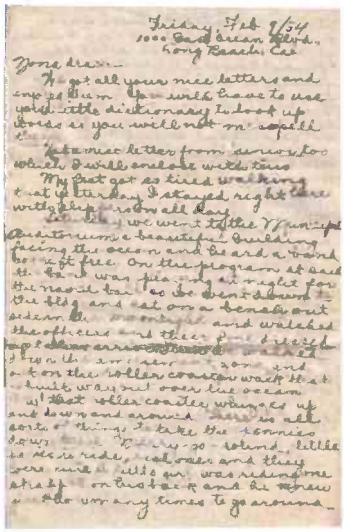


[Letter 6 from Ella] Friday, Feb. 9/34, 1000 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Cal.

Nona dear,

We got all your nice letters and enjoyed them. You will have to use your little dictionary to look up words so you will not misspell them. Had a nice letter from Junior too which I will enclose with this. My feet got so tired walking that yesterday I stayed right here with slippers on all day.

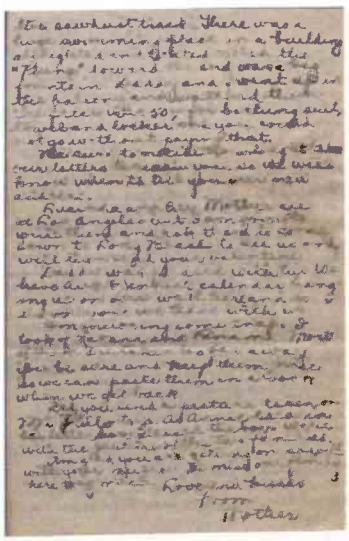
Saturday we went to the Municipal Auditorium, a beautiful building facing the ocean and heard a band concert free. On the program it said the band was playing at night for the naval ball so we went down to the bldg. and sat on a bench outside in the moonlight and watched the officers and their fine dressed –up ladies arrive. Then we walked down the amusement zone and out on the roller coaster walk that is built way out over the ocean. Oh my! That roller coaster whizzes up and down and around. There is all sorts of things to take the pennies down there. Merry-go-round, little ponies to ride, real ones, and they were cute. A little girl was riding one strapped on his back and he knew just how many times to go around



the sawdust track. There was a huge swimming place in a building all lighted and heated called the "Plunge". Toward the end was a big fountain. Daddy and I went up in the balcony and watched them. The price was 50 cents for bathing suit, towel, and locker, and you could not go without paying that.

Be sure to notice how long it takes our letters to reach you so we will know when to tell you our new address. Lucinda and her mother are at Los Angeles, but I am going to write them and ask them to come down to Long Beach to see us and will then send you your valentine. Daddy was pleased with his. We have Aunt Jennie's calendar hanging up on our wall here and is the only one we have with us. Am enclosing some snaps I took of Havana and Panama **[unable to find]**. Most of them are taken too far away. You be sure and keep them nice so we can paste them in a book when we get back. Did you send a picture taken on Mt. Philo to Jr. as Annie said in a letter how pleased the boys were with the picture of the two families? Am glad you are getting on so well with your music. We miss our family here very much.

Love and kisses from Mother

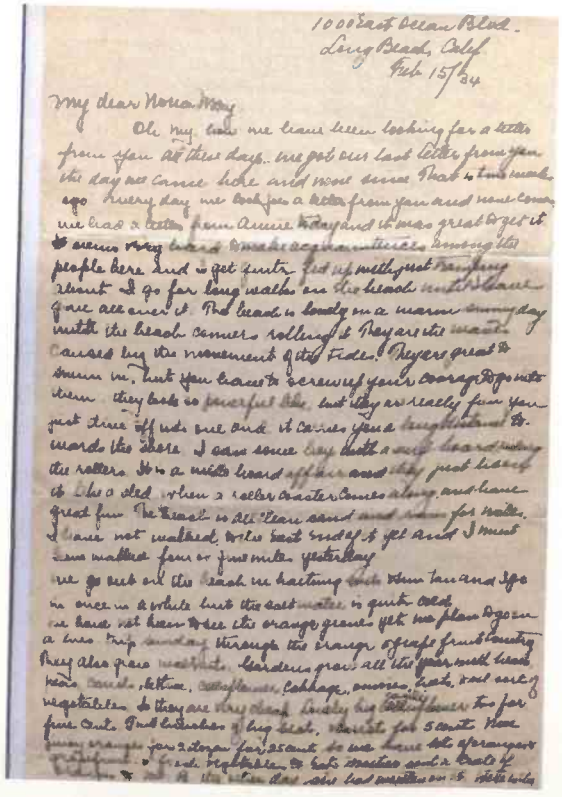


[Letter 10 from Harry] 1000 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Calif., Feb. 15/34

My dear Nona May,

Oh, my how we have been looking for a letter from you all these days. We got our last letter the day we came here and none since. That is two weeks ago. Every day we look for a letter from you and none comes. We had a letter from Annie today and it was great to get it. It seems very hard to make acquaintances among the people here. I get quite fed up with just tramping about. I go for long walks on the beach until I have gone all over it. The beach is lovely on a warm sunny day with the beach combers **[?]** rolling it. They are the waves caused by the movement of the tides. They are great to swim in, but you have to screw up your courage to go into them. They look so powerful like, but they are really fun. You just dive off into one, and t carries you a long distance towards the shore. I saw some boys with a surf board riding the rollers. It is a wide board affair and they just lie on it like a sled. when a roller coaster comes along and have great fun. The beach is all clean sand and runs for miles. I have not walked on the East end of it yet and I must have walked four or five miles yesterday.

We go out on the beach in bathing suits + sun tan and I go in once in a while, but the salt water is quite cold. We have not been to see the orange groves yet. We plan to go on a bus trip Sunday through the orange + grape fruit country. They also grow walnuts. Gardens grow all the year with beans, peas, carrots, lettuce, cauliflowers, cabbage, onions, beets + all sorts of vegetables. So they are very cheap. Lovely big cauliflower two for five cents. Two bunches of big beets + carrots for 5 cents. Nice juicy oranges for 2 dozen for 25 cents. So we have lots of oranges + grape fruit + fresh vegetables to eat. Mother sent a crate of oranges to Mr. B. the other day. She had written on it: "Here is the


1000 East Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, Calif
Feb 15/34

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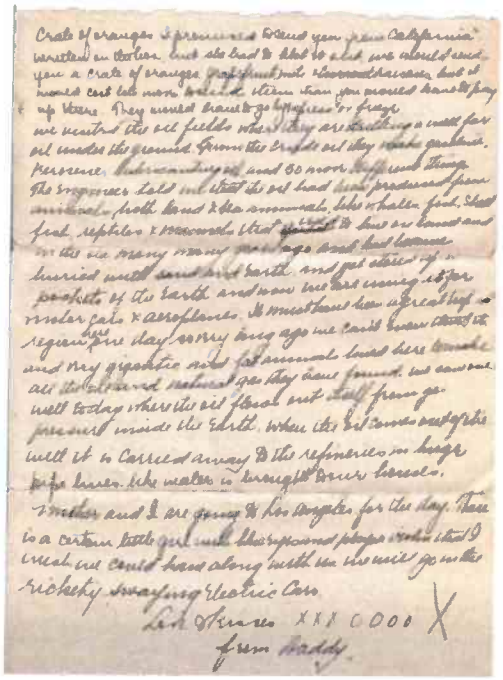
crate of oranges I promised to send you from California." Written on the box, but she had to blot it out. We would send you a crate of oranges, grape fruit, nuts + raisins, but it would cost lots more to send them than you would have to pay up there. They would have to go by express or freeze.

We visited the oil fields where they are drilling a well for oil under the ground. From the crude oil, they make gasoline, kerosene, lubricating oil and 50 more different things. The engineer told me that the oil had been produced from animals, both land + sea animals, like whales, fish, shell fish, reptiles + mammals that used to live on land and in the sea many many years ago, and had become buried

with sand and earth, and got stored up in pockets of the earth, and now we are using it for motor cars + aeroplanes. It must have been a great tropical region here one day so very long ago we can't even think it, and very gigantic and fat animals lived here, to make all the oil and natural gas they have found. We saw one well today where the oil flows out itself from gas pressure inside the earth. When the oil comes out of the well, it is carried away to the refineries in huge pipe lines like water is brought to houses. Mother and I are going to Los Angeles for the day. There is a certain little girl with blue eyes and plays a violin that I wish we could have along with us. We will go in the rickety, swaying electric car.

Love + kisses XXXOOOOX

From Daddy



[Letter 11 from Harry]

1000 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach Calif., Feb. 21/34

My dear Little Blue-eyed Sweetheart, who plays the little violin,

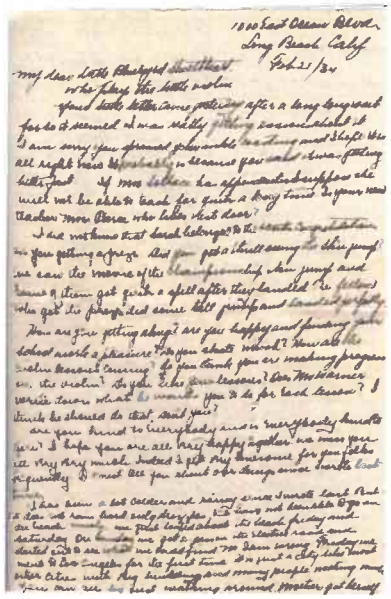
Your little letter came yesterday after a long, long wait, for so it seemed. I was really getting anxious about it. I am sorry you sprained your ankle coasting and I hope it is all right now. It probably is because you said it was getting better fast. If Mrs. Soclace [?] has appendicitis, I suppose she will not be able to teach for quite a long time. Is your new teacher Mrs. Pierce who lives next door?

I did not know that Sarah belonged to the scouts. Congratulations on you getting a prize. Did you get a thrill seeing the ski jump? We saw the movie of the championship ski jump and some of them got quite a spill after they landed. The fellow who got the prize did some tall jump and landed perfectly.

How are you getting along? Are you happy and finding your school work a pleasure? Do you skate much? How are the violin lessons coming? Do you think you are making progress on the violin? Do you like your lessons? Does Mr. Warner write down what he wants you to do for each lesson? I think he should do that. Don't you?

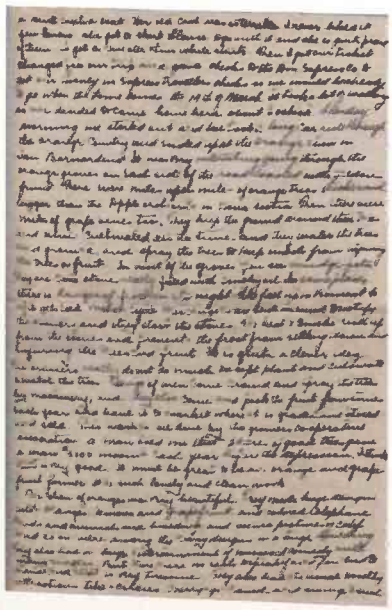
Are you kind to everybody and is everybody kind to you? I hope you are all very happy together. We miss you all very, very much. Indeed I get very lonesome for you folks frequently. I must tell you about our doings since I wrote last time.

It has been a lot colder and rainy since I wrote last. But it does not rain hard, only drizzles. We have not been able to go on the beach much. We just loafed about the beach Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, we got a pass on the electric road and started out to see what we could find. No, I am wrong. Friday, we went to Los Angeles for the first time. It is just a city like most other cities, with big buildings and many people. Nothing much you can see just walking around. Mother got herself



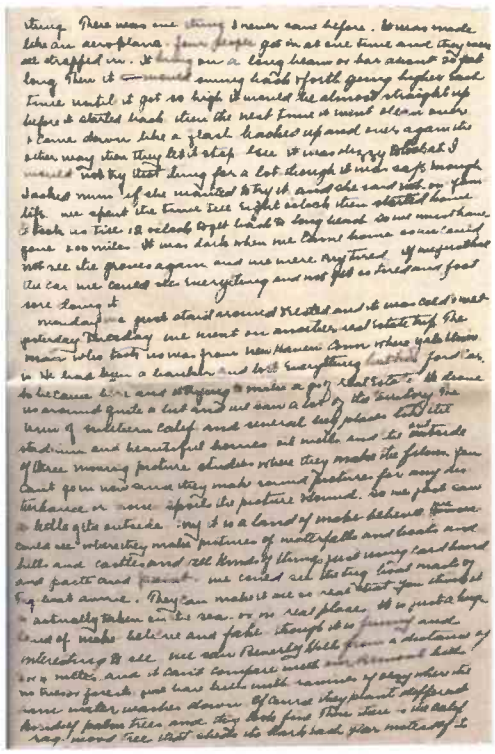
a suit with a coat. Her old coat was so terrible. I never liked it, you know. She got a skirt + blouse to go with it and she is quite proud of them. I got a sweater + two white shirts. Then I got our ticket changed for our trip and gave checks to the Am. Express Co. to get our money in Express traveler's checks so we would be already to go when the time3 comes, the 19th of March. It took a lot of walking, so we decided to come home here about 6 o'clock Sunday morning, we started out and we took a long car ride through the orange country and ended up at the orange show in San Bernadino. It was very interesting going through the orange groves on each side of the road loaded with golden fruit. There were miles upon miles of orange trees, thicker and bigger than the apple orchards in Nova Scotia. Then there were miles of grape vines too. They keep the ground around the trees and vines cultivated all the time, and they water the trees and ground, and spray the trees to keep insects from injuring the trees or fruit. In most of the groves, you see smudge-pots. They are little stoves really filled with smoky oil. In some places, there is danger of frost in the night like fall up in Vermont. So, if it gets cold, motor cycle messengers are sent around to notify the owners, and they start the stoves. The heat + smoke rises up from the stoves and prevents the frost from settling down and injuring the trees. And fruit. It is quite a clever idea. The owners do not really do much. Except plant and cultivate + watch the trees Gangs of men come and pick the fruit four times each year and haul it to market where it is graded and stored and sold. This work is all done by the grower's co-operative association. A man told me that 2 acres of good trees gave a man $3,000 income each year before the depression. I think that is very good. It must be great to be an orange and grape fruit farmer. It is such lovely and clean work.

The show of oranges was very beautiful. They made huge designs with oranges, lemons, and grape fruit, and colored cellophane. Birds and animals and buildings, and scenic pictures of Calif. and so on were among the many designs in a huge building. They also had a huge entertainment of musical comedy with many singers. But there were no seats to speak of, and you had to stand and that is very tiresome. They also had the usual novelty attractions like a circus, merry-go-round and swings + such



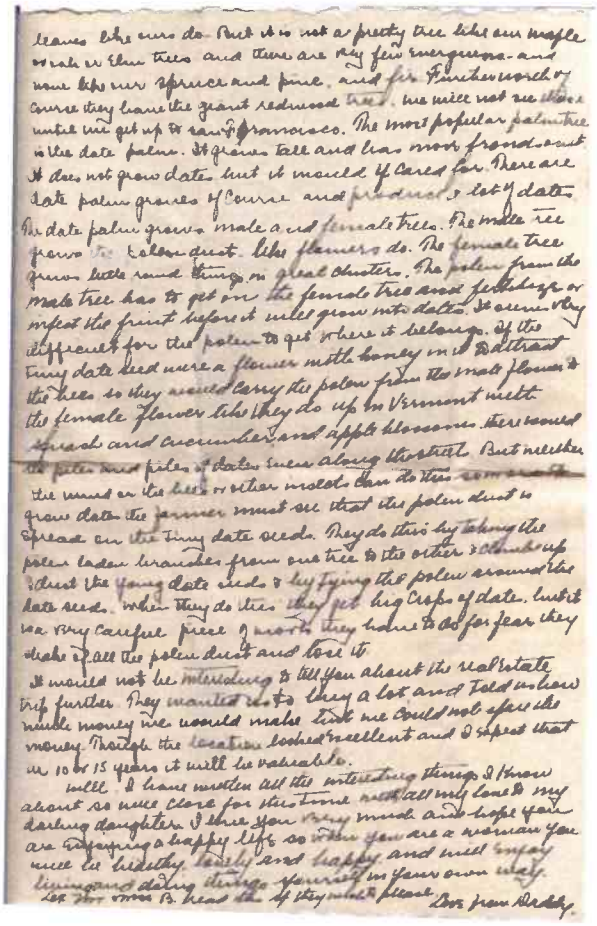
things. There was one thing I never saw before. It was made like an aeroplane. Four people got in at one time and they were all strapped in. It hung on a long beam or bar about 20 feet long. Then it would swing back + forth going higher each time until it got so high it would be almost straight up before it started back. Then the next time it went clear over + came down like a flash, backed up over again the other way, then they let it stop. Gee. It was dizzy to look at. I would not try that thing for a lot, though it is safe enough. I asked Mum if she wanted to try it, and she said not-on-your-life. We spent the time till eight o'clock then started home. It took us till 12 o'clock to get back to Long Beach, so we must have gone about 200 miles. It was dark when we came home so we could not see the groves again and we were very tired. If we just had the car, we could see everything and not get so tired and foot sore doing it.

Monday we just stayed around + rested, and it was cold + wet yesterday. Tuesday, we went on another real estate trip. The man who took us was from New Haven, Conn. where Yale Univ. is. He had been a banker and lost everything, but his Ford car. So he came here and is trying to make a go of real estate. He drove us around quite a bit and we saw a lot of the territory. The Univ. of Southern Calif. and several big places like the stadium and beautiful houses, oil wells, and the outside of three moving picture studios where they make the films. You can go in now since they make sound pictures for any disturbance or noise spoils the picture + sound. So we just saw a little of the outside. My, it is a land of make-believe. We could see where they make pictures of waterfalls and boats and hills and castles and all kinds of things just using cardboard and paste and paint. We could see the tug-boat masts of Tug-boat Annie. They can make it so real that you think it is actually taken on the sea, or in real places. It is just a huge land of make-believe and fake though it is funny and interesting to see. We saw Beverly Hills from a distance of 3 or 4 miles, and it can't compare with our Vermont hills. No trees or forests, just bare hills with ravines of clay where the rain water washes down. Of course they plant different kinds of palm trees and they look fine. Then there is the Calif. rag-wood tree that sheds its bark each year instead of its



leaves like ours do. But it is not a pretty tree like our maple or oak or elm trees, and there are very few evergreens- and none like our spruce and pine and fir. Further north of course they have giant redwood trees. We will not see those until we get up to San Francisco. The most popular palm tree is the date palm. It grows tall and has many fronds on it. It does not grow dates, but it would if cared for. There are date palm groves of course, and produce a lot of dates. The date palm grows male and female trees. The male tree grows the pollen dust, like flowers do. The female tree grows little round things in great clusters. The pollen from the male tree has to get on the female tree and fertilize or infect the fruit before it will grow into dates. It seems very difficult for the pollen to get where it belongs. If the tiny date seed were a flower with honey in it to attract the bees, so they would carry the pollen from the male flower to the female flower like they do up in Vermont with squash and cucumber and apple blossoms, there would be piles and piles of dates, even along the streets. But neither the wind or the bees or other insects can do this so in order to grow dates the farmer must see that the pollen dust is spread on the tiny date seeds. They do this by taking the pollen laden branches from one tree to the other + climb up + dust the young date seeds + by tying the pollen around the date seeds. When they do this, they get big crops of dates, but it is a very careful piece of work they have to do for fear they shake all the pollen dust and lose it. It would not be interesting to tell you about the real estate trip further. They wanted us to buy a lot and told us how much money we would make, but we could not spare the money. Though the location looked excellent and I expect that in 10 or 15 years it will be valuable.

Well, I have written all the interesting things I know about so will close for this time with all my love to my darling daughter. I love you very much and hope you are enjoying a happy life so when you are a woman you will be healthy, lovely, and happy, and will enjoy living and doing things yourself in your own way. Let Mr. + Mrs. B. read this if they wish to please. Love from Daddy



leaves like ours do. But it is not a pretty tree like our maple or oak or elm trees and there are very few evergreens and none like our spruce and pine, and fir. Furthermore of course they have the giant redwood trees. We will not see them until we get up to San Francisco. The most popular palm tree is the date palm. It grows tall and has most frond-coconut It does not grow dates but it would if cared for. There are date palm groves of course and produce a lot of dates. The date palm grows male and female trees. The male tree grows the pollen dust like flowers do. The female tree grows little round things in great clusters. The pollen from the male tree has to get on the female tree and fertilize or infect the fruit before it will grow into dates. It seems very different for the pollen to get where it belongs. If the tiny date seed were a flower with honey in it to attract the bees so they would carry the pollen from the male flower to the female flower like they do up in Vermont with squash and cucumber and apple blossoms there would be pollen and pollen of dates mixed along the trail. But neither the wind or the bees or either insect can do this so to grow dates the farmer must see that the pollen dust is spread on the tiny date seeds. They do this by taking the pollen laden branches from one tree to the other & shake up about the young date seeds & by tying the pollen around the date seed. When they do this they get big crops of dates. But it is a very careful piece of work they have to do for fear they shake off all the pollen dust and lose it

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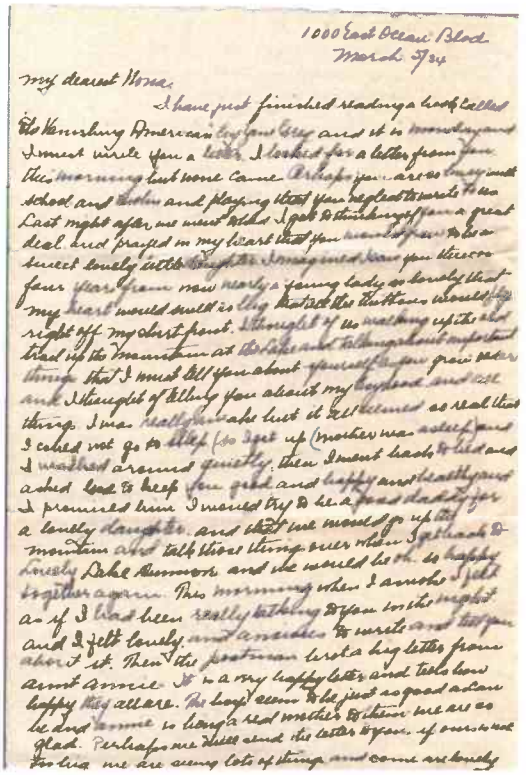
Well I have written all the interesting things I know about so will close for this time with all my love to my darling daughter. I love you very much and hope you are enjoying a happy life so when you are a woman you will be healthy, lovely and happy and will enjoy living and doing things yourself in your own way. Let Mrs. B. read it if they want to please. Love from Daddy.

[Letter 12 from Harry]

1000 East Ocean Blvd., March 5/34

My dearest Nona,

I have just finished reading a book called "The Vanishing American" by Zane Grey **[one Grey's most famous novels, also a motion picture, about the native American Indians]**, and it's Monday and I must write you a letter. I looked for a letter from you this morning, but none came. Perhaps you are so busy with school and violin and playing that you neglect to write to us. Last night after we went to bed, I got to thinking of you a great deal, and prayed in my heart that you would grow to be a sweet lovely little daughter. I imagined I saw you three or four years from now nearly a young lady, so lovely that my heart would swell so big that all the buttons would fly right off my shirt front. I thought of us walking up the old trail up the mountain at the Lake **[Mount Moosalamoo]** and talking about important things that I must tell you about yourself as you grow older, and I thought of telling you about my boyhood and all things. I was really awake but it all seemed so real that I could not go to sleep. So I got up (Mother was asleep) and I walked around quietly, then I went back to bed and asked God to keep you good and happy and healthy, and I promised him I would try to be a good daddy for a lovely daughter, and that we would go up the mountain, and talk those things over when I get back to lovely Lake Dunmore, and we would be oh so happy together again. This morning when I awoke, I felt as if I had been really talking to you in the night, and I felt lovely and anxious to write and tell you about it. Then the postman brought a big letter from Aunt Annie. It is a very happy letter and tells how happy they all are. The boys seem to be just as good as can be and Annie is being a real mother to them. We are so glad. Perhaps we will send the letter to you [illegible] not too big. We are seeing a lot of things, and some are lovely



1000 East Ocean Blvd.
March 9 '34

My dearest Nona,

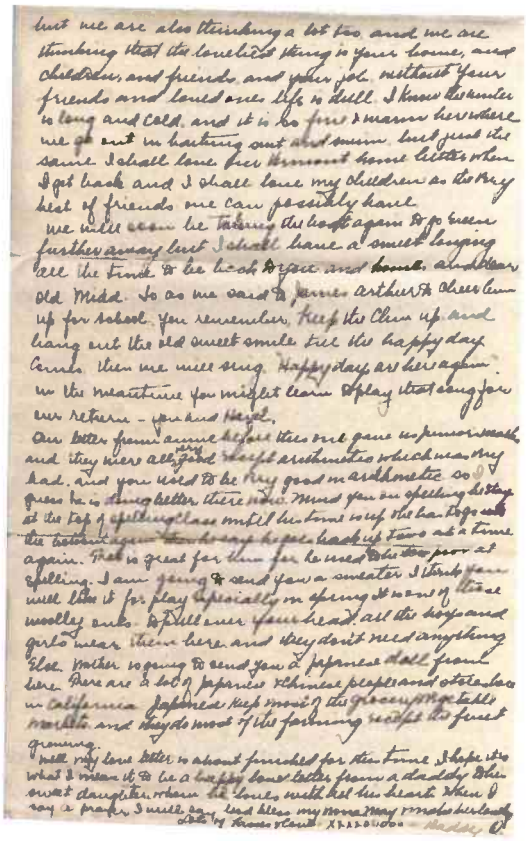
I have just finished reading a book called The Vanishing American by Zane Grey and it is wonderful and I must write you a letter. I looked for a letter from you this morning but none came. Perhaps you are so busy at school and down and playing that you neglect to write to me. Last night after we went to bed I got to thinking of you a great deal and prayed in my heart that you would grow up to be a sweet lovely little daughter. I imagined how you looked four years from now nearly a young lady so lovely that my heart would melt as I lay tucked in the clothes would keep right off my chest pant. I thought of us walking up the road to the mountain at the lake and talking about important things that I must tell you about yourself as you grow older and I thought of all the things you about my boyhood and all such things. I was really quite sad but it all seemed so real like things. I was really quite sad but it all seemed so real like I could not go to sleep (so I got up (mother was asleep) and I walked around quietly then I went back to bed and asked God to keep you good and happy and healthy and I promised him I would try to be a good daddy to a lovely daughter, and that we would go up the mountain and talk these things over when I get back to lovely Lake Arrowhead and we would be oh so happy together again. This morning when I awoke I felt as if I had been really talking to you in the night and I felt lonely and needless to write and tell you about it. Then the postman brought a big letter from aunt Annie. It was a very happy letter and tells how happy they all are. The boys seem to be just as good as can be and Jeanne is being a real mother to them we are so glad. Perhaps we shall send the letter to you. If you have time we are doing lots of things and some are lovely

But we are also thinking a lot too, and we are all thinking that the loveliest thing is your home, and children, and friends, and your job. Without your friends and loved ones, life is dull. I know the winter is long and cold, and it is so fine + warm here where we go out in bathing suits and swim, but just the same I shall love our Vermont home better when I get back, and I shall love my children as the very best of friends one can possibly have. We will soon be taking the boat again to go even further away, but I shall have a sweet longing all the time to be back to you and home, and dear old Midd. So as we said to James Arthur to cheer him up for school, you remember: "Keep the chin up, and hang out the old sweet smile till the happy day comes, then we will sing-'Happy days are here again!'" In the meantime, you might learn to play that song for our return- you and Hazel **[Butterfield]**.

Our letter from Annie before this one gave us Junior's marks and they were all very good except arithmetic which was very bad, and you used to be very good in arithmetic, so I guess he is doing better there now. Mind you on spelling he stays at the top of spelling class until his time is up + he has to go to the bottom again, then he says he goes back up two at a time again **[See letter from Junior below.]** That is great for him for he used to be so poor at spelling. I am going to send you a sweater. I think you will like it for play especially in spring. It is one of those wooly ones- to pull over your head. All the boys and girls wear them here and they don't need anything else. Mother is going to send you a Japanese doll from here. There are a lot of Japanese + Chinese people and stores here in California. Japanese keep most of the grocery + vegetable markets, and they do most of the farming except the fruit growing.

Well, my love letter is about finished for the time. I hope it is what I mean it to be- a happy love letter from a daddy to his sweet daughter whom he loves with all his heart. When I say a prayer, I will say God bless my Nona May + make her lovely.

Lots of kisses + love, XXXXOOOOO - Daddy O.



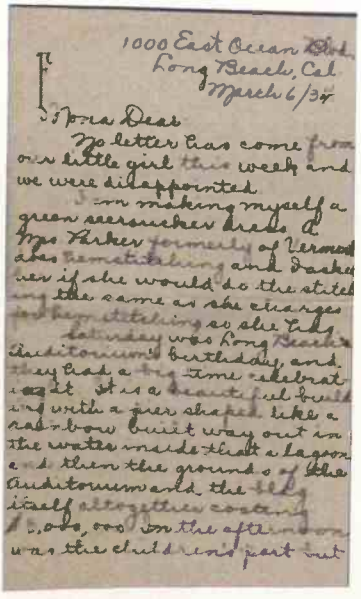
[Letter 7 from Ella] 1000 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach Cal., March 6/34

Nona Dear,

No letter has come from our little girl this week and we were disappointed.

I am making myself a green seersucker dress. A Mrs. Parker, formerly of Vermont, does hemstitching and I asked her if she would do the stitching the same as she charges for hemstitching so she has

Saturday was Long Beach Auditorium's birthday, and they dad a big time celebrating it. It is a beautiful building with a pier shaped like a rainbow built way out in the water inside that a lagoon and then the grounds of the Auditorium and the bldg. itself altogether costing $3,000,000. **[See above picture on page 36 and link to more info on the Auditorium & Pier.]** In the afternoon was the children's part but



[Letter 7 from Ella continued]

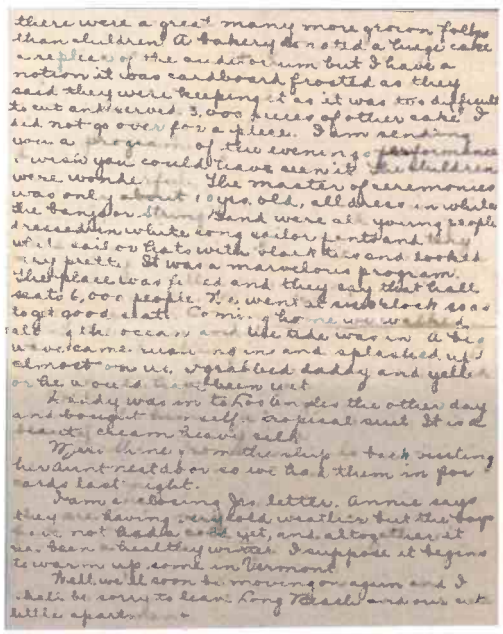
there were a great many more grown folks than children. A bakery donated a huge cake, a replica of the auditorium, but I have a notion it was cardboard frosted as they said they were keeping it as it was difficult to cut, and served 3,000 pieces of other cake. I did not go over for a piece. I am sending you a program of the evening performance **[see below]**. I wish you could have seen it. The children were wonderful. The master of ceremonies was only about 10 yrs. old, all dressed in white. The banjo or string band were all young people dressed in white long sailor pants and tiny white sailor hats with black ties and looked very pretty. It was a marvelous program. The place was filled and they say that the hall seats 6,000 people **[actually 8,000]**. We went at six o'clock so as to get a good seat. Coming home, we walked along the ocean and the tide was in. A big wave came rushing in and splashed up almost on us. I grabbed daddy and yelled or he would have been wet.

Daddy was in to Los Angeles the other day and bought himself a tropical suit. It is a beauty, cream heavy silk.

Miss Shine from the ship is back visiting her aunt next door so we had them in for cards last night.

I am enclosing Jrs.' letter **[see below]**. Annie says they are having very cold weather but the boys have not had a cold yet, and altogether it has been a healthy winter. I suppose it begins to warm up some in Vermont.

Well, we'll soon be moving on again and I shall be sorry to leave Long Beach and our little apartment.



March7/34

Daddy, Miss Shine and I are sitting on the back balcony and the tide and waves are swishing and rolling in below us. The sun is warm but the wind cool.

There is not much news to write. We went to see Janet Gaynor in "Carolina" yesterday afternoon and liked it very much. We go in the afternoon for 15 cents. I have dark glasses on to write this for the sun is so bright. The folks at the Riviera a little way over from us are putting up their huge umbrellas to keep the sun off but we like it.

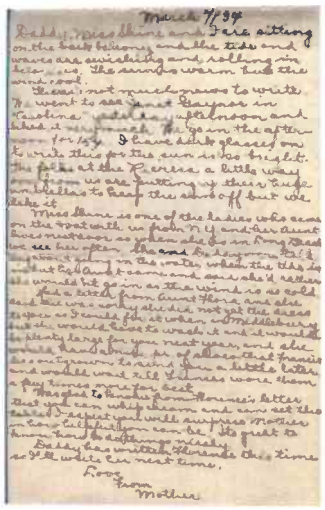
Miss Shine is one of the ladies who came on the boat with us from N.Y. and her aunt lives next door so when she is in Long Beach we see her often. She and Daddy were talking about going in the water when the tide is in, but her aunt came and said she'd rather she wouldn't go in as the wind is so cold.

Had a letter from Aunt Flora and she said she was sorry she did not get the dress to you so I could fit it when in Middlebury, but she would have to wash it and it would be plenty large for you next year, and she would have a nice pair of shoes that Francis has outgrown to send you a little later, and would wait till Francis wore them a few times more for best.

Was glad to know from Florence **[Butterfield]**'s letter that you can whip cream and set the table. I expect you will surprise Mother in how helpful you can be. It's great to know how to do things nicely.

Daddy has written Florence this time, so I'll write her next time.

Love From Mother



March 7/34

Daddy, Miss Blume and I are sitting on the back balcony and the tide and waves are swishing and rolling in here once. The sun is warm but the wind is cool.

There's not much news to write. We went to see Janet Gaynor in Carolina yesterday afternoon and liked it very much. We go in the afternoon for 15¢. I have to wear glasses now to write this for the sun is so bright. The folks at the Riviera a little way down from us are putting up these huge umbrellas to keep the wind off but we like it.

Miss Blume is one of the ladies who came on the boat with us from N.Y. and her aunt lives next door so when she is in Long Beach we see her often. She and I go down to sit by the water when the tide is out and it is warm and sometimes we'd rather do that than go in as the wind is so cold and then we come back and she reads to me. I got a letter from Aunt Flora and she expects us to come for at least a week at Middleburg but she would have to wash it and it would be plenty large for you next year, and she wants her daughter in law to send them a little letter and wishes we'd tell Edmund more about a few things regarding Scott.

Margaret's Uncle Norman Bowman's letter that you can whip cream and can eat the baked [illegible] that will surprise Mother in long distance can be! It's great to know how he [illegible] reading.

Daddy has written Edmund this time so I'll write [illegible] next time.

Love
from
Mother

PROGRAM

Anniversary Extravaganza

Celebrating the Second Birthday

MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

Long Beach, California

SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 3, 1934

FREE — Auspices City of Long Beach — FREE

CONVENTION HALL 7:00 P. M.

Direction Lillian Newman

CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND FINE ARTS

WELCOME

By JACK HORNER

Municipal Auditorium Convention and Publicity Manager

Opening Overture..... United States Cruiser Navy Massed Band

1. Rae Tyler's Rhythm Kids—Fifty-piece String Band.
2. Symphony in Blue—"Lillian Newman Girls."
   Miriam Holly, Frances Lane, Aloha Walker.
3. "Little Miss Personality"—Petite Rena Jean Black.
4. Lillian Bowles Trio in Costume, presenting:
   Japanese Love Song ..... *Thomas*
   "One Fine Day," from "Muse. Butterfly" ..... *Puccini*
   Taree Little Maids from School (Mikado ..... *Sullivan*
   Trio Personnel: Helen Gulick, Mary Ethel Goddard, Josephine Monroe.
5. March "Zacatecas" ..... *Costas*
   Accordian Duet, Martha Taylor and Betty Hontzig, pupils of Dennis Koach.
6. Kermit Holven in Spanish Songs, augmented by Frances Lane and Miriam Holly, Lillian Newman Dancers.
7. Richard "Skeets" Wagner in a Tap Routine.
8. Triesto Overture ..... *Detro*
   Rontie Strand, Accordian Soloist, student of Dennis Koach.
9. Easter Parade ..... *Berlin*
   Featuring Ronald Gurside, Betty Cyrrus, Helen Day, Rosella Lane, Betty Townsend, Dorothy Hunner, and Betty Alice Mathews—a Lillian Newman Ensemble.

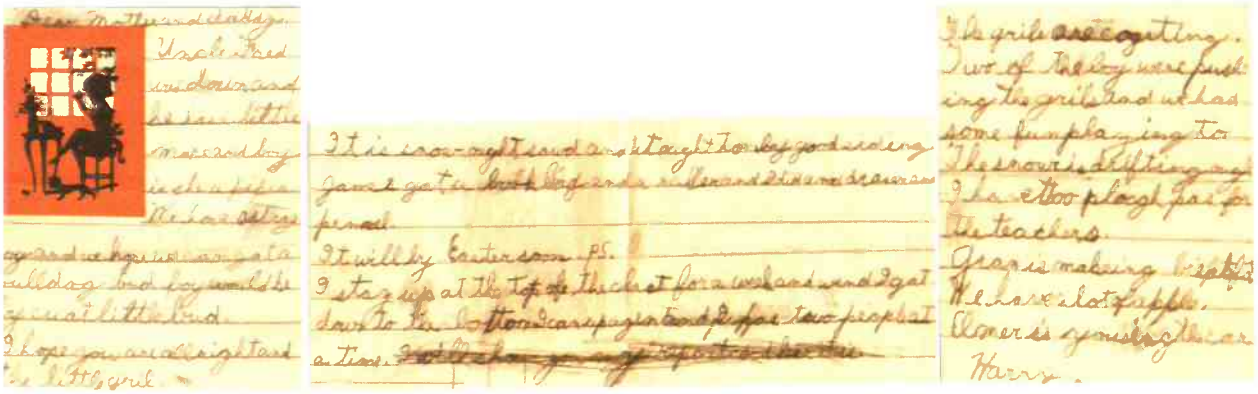
Top of the program from the Auditorium concert that Ella describes in her letter above.

[Letter 1 from Harry Jr., age 9]

Dear Mother and daddy.

Uncle Fred **[Fred Fife- Harry's youngest brother, age 33 at the time]** was down and he has a little mare and boy is she a pipes. We have a stray dog and we hope we can get a bulldog bud boy would he by cuat little bud. I hope you are allright and the little grl. It is snow ought sawd and it ought to by good siding. James got a book bag and a ruller and I did and eraser and pencel. It will by Easter soon. PS. I stay up at the top of the class for a week and wend I got down to the bottom I can up agin and I pas two people at a time. I will show you my report card hear it is. **[last sentence crossed out]** The grils are coasting. Two of the boy were pushing the grils and we had some fun playing to. The snow is drifting ought. I have to plough pas for the teachers. Gram is making breakfst. We have a lot of apple. Elmer **[Ella's older brother, age 43 at the time]** is yousing the car.

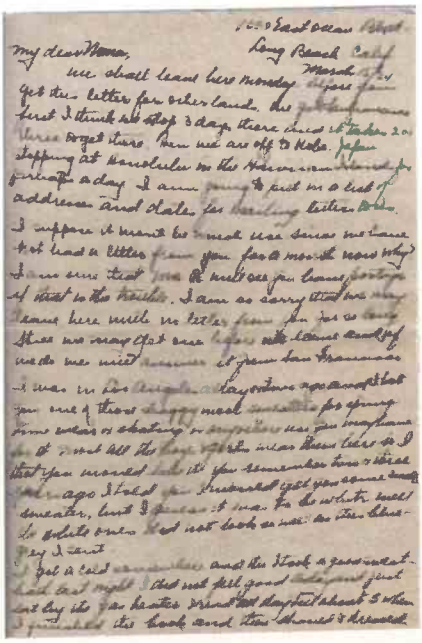
Harry



[Letter 13 from Harry] 1000 East Ocean Blvd. Long Beach Calif., March 15/34

My dear Nona,

We shall leave here Monday- before you get this letter, for other lands. We go to San Francisco first. I think we stop 3 days there and it takes 2 or three to get there. Then we are off to Kobe, Japan, stopping at Honolulu in the Hawaiian Islands for perhaps a day. I am going to put in a list of addresses and dates for mailing letters to us. I suppose it won't be much use since we have not had a letter from you for a month now. Why? I am sure that Mrs. B. will see you have postage if that is the trouble. I am so sorry that we may leave here with no letter from you for so long. Still we may get one before we leave and if we do we will answer it from San Francisco. I was in Los Angeles a day or two ago and I bought you one of those shaggy sweaters for spring-time wear or skating, or any other use you may have for it. Most of all the boys + girls wear them here, so I thought you would like it. You remember two or three years ago I told you I would get you some such sweater, but I guess it was to be white. Well, the white ones did not look so well as this blue-grey I sent. I got a cold somewhere and though I took a good sweat-bath last night, I did not feel good today and just sat by the gas heater + read all day till about 5 when I finished the book and then shaved + dressed



[Letter 13 from Harry continued]

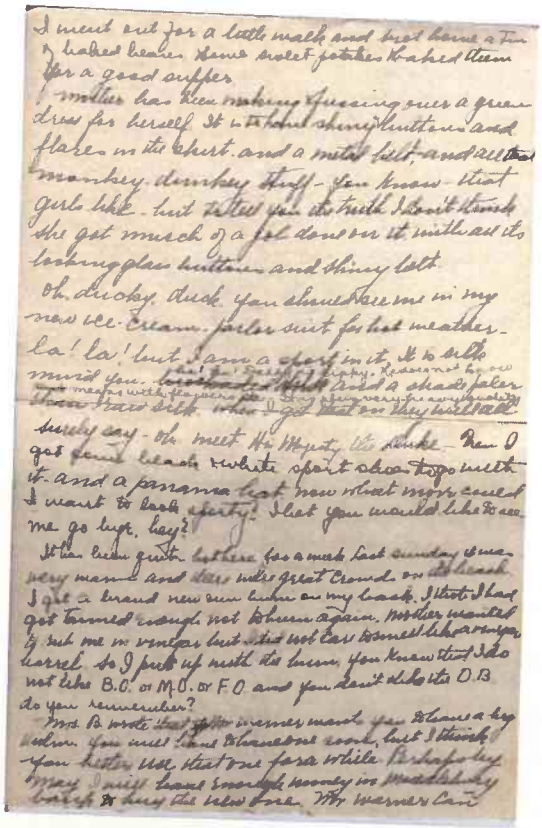
I went out for a little walk and brought home a tin of baked beans + some sweet potatoes + baked them for a good supper.

Mother has been making + fussing over a green dress for herself. It is to have shiny buttons and flares in the skirt and a metal belt, and all that monkey-dunkey stuff- you know – that girls like- but to tell you the truth I don't think she got much of a job done on it with all its looking glass buttons and shiny belt.

Oh, ducky duck, you should see me in my new ice-cream-parlor suit for hot weather-la! La! But I am a sport in it. It is silk mind you and a shade paler than raw silk. When I get that on they will all surely say- oh, meet His Majesty, the Duke. Then I got some black + white sports shoes to go with it, and a panama hat. Now what more could I want to look sporty? I bet you would like to see me go by, hey?

It has been quite hot here for a week. Last Sunday, it was very warm and there were great crowds on the beach. I got a brand new sun burn on my back. I thought I had got tanned enough not to burn again. Mother wanted to rub me in vinegar but I did not care to smell like a vinegar barrel. So I put up with the burn. You know that I not like B.O. or M.O. or F.O. and you don't like the O.B., do you remember?

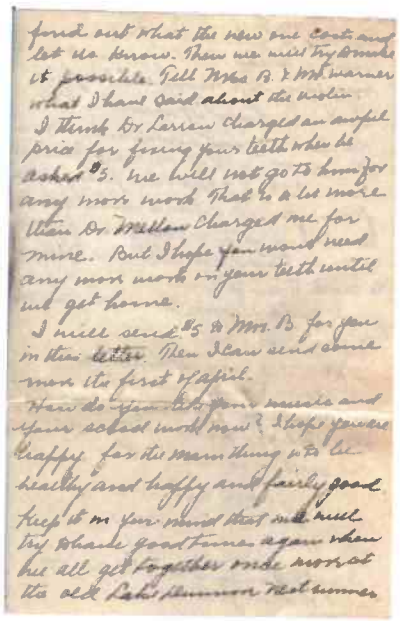
Mrs. B. wrote that Mr. Warner wants you to have a big violin. You will have to have one soon, but I think you better use that one for a while. Perhaps by May I will have enough money in Middlebury bank to buy the new one. Mr. Warner can



find out what the new one costs and let us know. Then we will try to make it possible. Tell Mrs. B. + Mr. Warner what I said about the violin. I think Dr. Larrow charged an awful price for fixing your teeth when he asked $5. We will not go to him for any more work. That is a lot more than Dr. Mellon charged me for mine. But I hope you won't need any more work on your teeth until we get home.

I will send $5 to Mrs. B. for you in this letter. Then I can send more the first of April.

How do you like your music and your school work now? I hope you are happy for the main thing is to be healthy and happy and fairly good. Keep it in your mind that we will try to have good times again when we all get together once more at the old Lake Dunmore next summer.

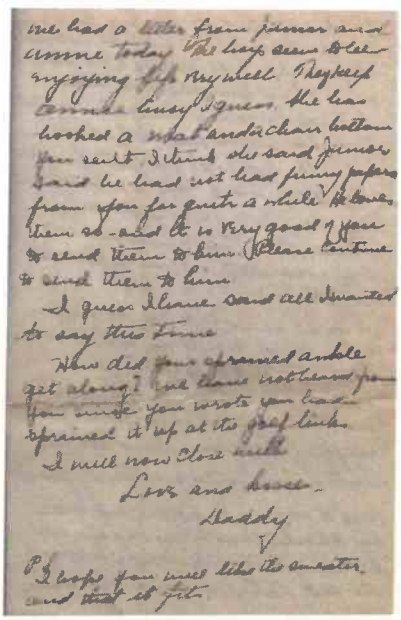


[Letter 13 from Harry continued]

We had a letter from Junior **[above]** and Annie today. The boys seem to be enjoying life very well. They keep Annie busy I guess. She has hooked a mat and a chair bottom you sent. I think she said Junior said he had not had funny papers from you for quite a while. He loves them so- and it is very good of you to send them to him. Please continue to send them to him.

I guess I have said all I wanted to say this time. How did your sprained ankle get along? We have not heard from you since you wrote you had sprained it up at the golf links. I will close with- Love and kisses- Daddy

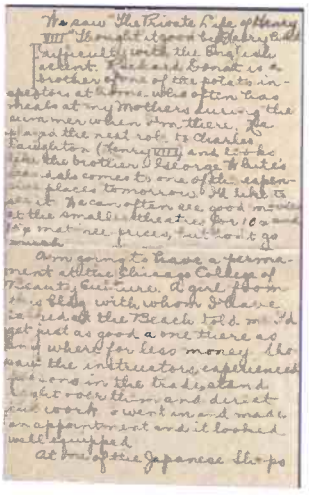
P.S> I hope you will like the sweater and that it fits.



[Letter 8 from Ella]

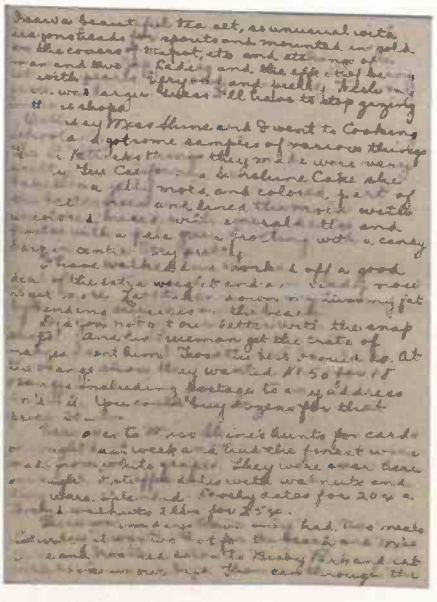
We saw "The Private Life of Henry VIII". Thought it good but Harry had difficulty with the English accent. Richard Donat is a brother of one of the potato inspectors at home who often has meals at my Mothers during the summer when I'm there. He played the next role to Charles Laughton (Henry VIII) and looks like the brother. **[Note- Charles Laughton won the 1933 Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in this movie. Robert Donat- not Richard played another key role in the movie.]** George White's Scandals comes to one of the expensive places tomorrow. I'd like to see it. **[This movie was about a Broadway revue like the Ziegfeld Follies. W.C. Fields and the Three Stooges, amongst others, got their start as part of these revues]** We can often see good movies at the smaller theaters for 10 cents and 15 cents matinee prices, but don't go much.

Am going to have a permanent at the Chicago College of Beauty Culture. A girl from this bldg. with whom I have talked at the beach told me I'd get just as good a one there anywhere for less money. She says the instructors, experienced persons in the trade, stand right over them and direct the work. I went and made an appointment and it looked well-equipped. At one of the Japanese shops



I saw a beautiful tea set, so unusual with dragon's heads for spouts and mounted in gold on the covers of teapot, etc., and etchings of a man and two ladies, and the effect of it being set with pearls. Very odd and pretty. Wish my purse was larger. Guess I'll have to stop gazing in these shops. Yesterday Miss Shine and I went to Cooking School and got some samples of various things. The St. Patrick's things they made were very pretty. The California Sunshine Cake she baked in a jelly mold and colored part of the batter green, and line the mold with uncolored mixed with emareldettes and frosted with a pale green frosting with a candy centre. Very pretty. I have walked and worked off a good deal of extra weight and am ready now to get more. Have taken down my tummy fat by bending exercises on the beach.

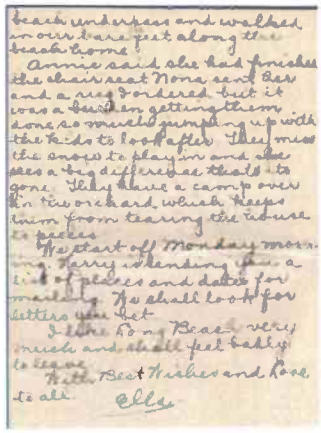
Did you not get our letter with the snap shots? And did Truman get the crate of oranges I sent him? Twas the best I could do. At the Orange Show they wanted $1.50 for 18 oranges including postage to any address in U.S.A. You could buy dozens for price so--- Were over to Miss Shine's aunts for cards one night last week and had the finest wine made from white grapes. They were over here one night. I stuffed dates with walnuts and they were splendid. Lovely dates for 20 cents a lb. and walnuts 2 lbs. for 25 cents. **[Walnuts cost about $6 a pound today!]**These warm days have only had two meals. Saturday it was too hot for the beach and Miss Shine and I walked down to Bixby Park and sat with books in our laps. Then came through the



[Letter 8 from Ella continued]

beach underpass and walked in our bare feet along the beach home. Annie said she had finished the chair seat Nona sent her and a rug I ordered but it was a burden getting them done so much jumping up with the kids to look after. They miss the snow to play in and she sees a big difference that it's gone. They have a camp over in the orchard which keeps them from tearing the house to pieces.

We start off Monday morning. Harry is sending you a list of places and dates for mailing. We shall look for letters you bet. I like Long Beach much and shall feel badly to leave. With best wishes and Love to all. Ella

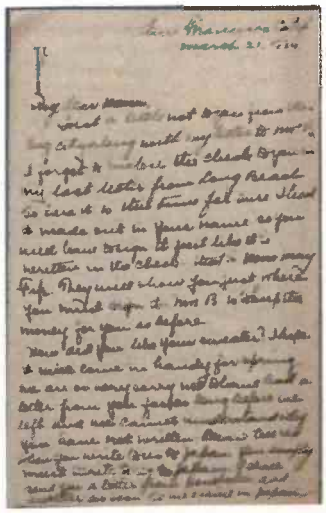


[Letter 14 from Harry] San Francisco, Calif., March 21, 1934

My dear Nona,

Just a little note to you from this big city along with my letter to Mr. B. I forgot to enclose the check to you in my last letter from Long Beach, so here it is this time for sure. I had it made out in your name so you will have to sign it just like it is written on the check, that is, Nona May Fife. They will show you just where you must sign it. Mrs. B. is to keep the money for you as before.

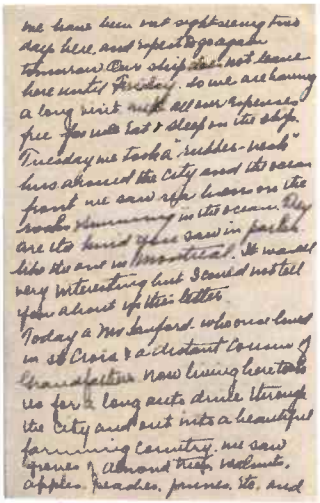
How did you like your sweater? I hope it will come in handy for spring. We are so very sorry not to have had a letter from you for so long before we left and we cannot understand why you have not written. Please tell us when you write to us in Japan. You simply must write to us to Japan. I shall send you a letter from Honolulu and another as soon as we arrive in Japan.



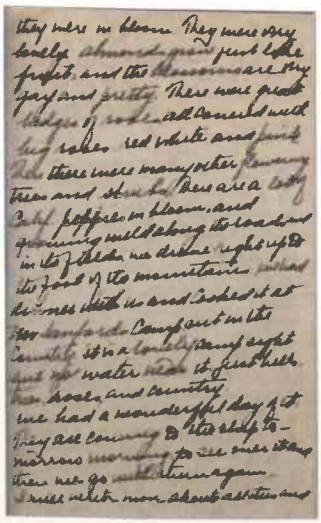
[Letter 14 from Harry continued]

We have been out sightseeing two days here, and expect to go again tomorrow. Our ship does not leave her until Friday. So we are having a long visit with our expenses free for we eat + sleep on the ship. Tuesday we took a "rubber-neck" bus around the city and the ocean front. We saw sea lions on the rocks swimming in the ocean. They are the kind you saw in parks like the one in Montreal. It was all very interesting but I could not tell you about in this letter

Today a Mr. Sanford, who once lived in St. Croix + a distant cousin of Grandfather's now living here, took us for a long auto drive through the city and out into the beautiful farming country. We saw groves of almond trees, walnuts, apples, peaches, prunes, etc. and



they were in bloom. They were very lovely. Almonds grow just like fruit and the blossoms are very gay and pretty. There were great hedges of roses, all covered with big roses, red, white and pink. There were many other flowering trees and shrubs. There are a lot of Calif. poppies in bloom and growing wild along the roads and in the fields. We drove right up the foot of the mountains. We had dinner with us and cooked it at Mr. Sanford's camp out in the country. It is a lovely camp site but no water near it, just hills, trees, roses and country. We had a wonderful day of it. They are coming to the ship tomorrow to see over it and then we go with them again. I will write more about all this and

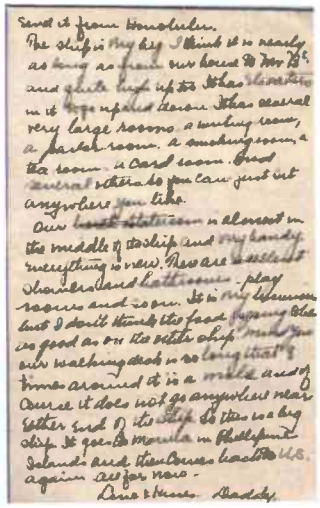


send it from Honolulu.

The ship is very big. I think it is nearly as long as from our house to Mr.B.'s and quite high up, too. It has several very large rooms, a writing room, a parlor room, a smoking room, a card room, and several others. So you can just sit anywhere you like.

Our stateroom is almost in the middle of the ship and very handy. Everything is new. There are excellent showers and bathrooms, play rooms, and so on.

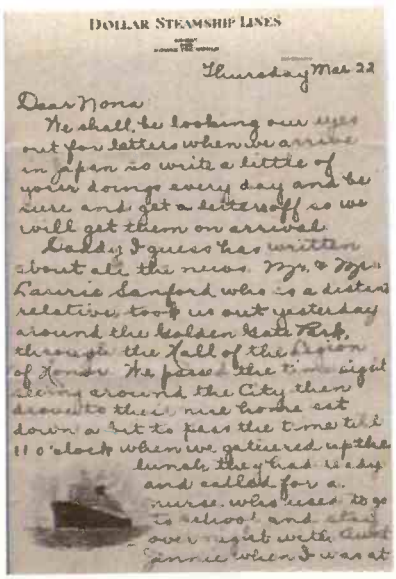
It is very luxurious, but I don't think the food is going to be as good as on the other ship. Mind you our walking deck is so long that 8 times around it is a mile and of course it does not go anywhere near either end of the ship. So this is a big ship. It goes to Manila in Philippine Islands and then comes back to U.S. again. All for now- Love + Kisses. Daddy



[Letter 9 from Ella] Thursday, March 22

Dear Nona,

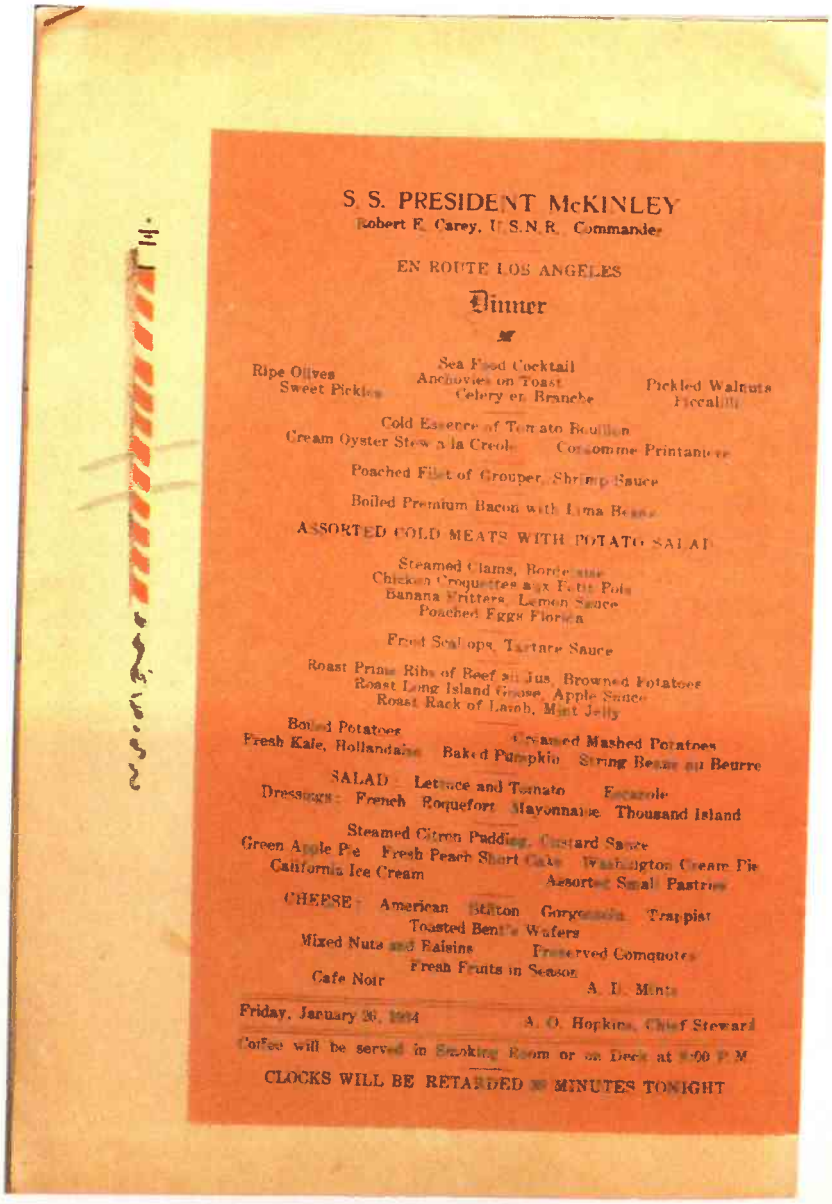
We shall be looking our eyes out for letters when we arrive in Japan, so write a little of your doings every day and be sure and get letters off so we will get them on arrival. Daddy I guess has written all the news. Mr. + Mrs. Laurie Sanford who is a distant relative took us out yesterday around the Golden Gate Park, through the Hall of the Legion of Honor. We passed the time sight-seeing around the city, then drove to their nice home, sat down a bit to pass the time till 11 o'clock when we gathered up the lunch they had ready and called for a nurse who used to go to school and stay overnight with Aunt Jennie **[Ella's sister]** when I was at


DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES
Thursday Mar 22
Dear Nona
We shall be looking our eyes out for letters when we arrive in Japan so write a little of your doings every day and be sure and get a letter off so we will get them on arrival.
Daddy I guess has written about all the news. Mr. & Mrs. Laurie Sanford who is a distant relative took us out yesterday around the Golden Gate Park, through the Hall of the Legion of Honor. We passed the time sight seeing around the City then drove to their nice home sat down a bit to pass the time till 11 o'clock when we gathered up the lunch they had ready and called for a nurse who used to go to school and stay overnight with Aunt Jennie when I was at

Business College. I remember her as a wee girl with black ringlets. Perhaps because Aunt Jennie is so tall, Isabelle Dill seemed so wee. However she is larger now and teaches nursing at Leland Stanford Medical College. We then drove out to Woodside and had a fine steak dinner at their summer home there. They have some beautiful roses and Isabelle climbed up in the attic and got a huge red one for me. After dinner we drove out to Palo alto where President Hoover now lives and visited the beautiful University Chapel where Harold Sanford, their son, was married. It is the prettiest chapel I ever expect to see. We looked over the stadium or bowl as they call it where all the big football games are played. Driving around the campus we spied their grand-son's roadster so looked him up. Then we drove on to the foothills of Santa Clara Valley. Most of the fruit blossoms had gone by but there were roses and wisteria and wild poppies and the drive was lovely. Going out they drove on what they call the skyline, a highway on the edge of the mountains and coming back we came along the Bay.

I expect the grass will be quite green by the time you get this and you will be playing ball. Hope you like your fluffy sweater and wear it a lot. It will be easy to pull over your head. Be sure and write us how you like it.

The Sanford's are here for us again and we are going over the Bay, so must say Good Bye. Lots of Love, From Mother xxooo



S. S. PRESIDENT McKINLEY

Robert E. Carey, U.S.N.R., Commander

EN ROUTE LOS ANGELES

Dinner

Ripe Olives
Sweet Pickles

Sea Food Cocktail
Anchovies on Toast
Celery en Branche

Pickled Walnuts
Piccalilli

Cold Essence of Tomato Bouillon
Cream Oyster Stew a la Creole
Consomme Printaniere

Poached Filet of Grouper, Shrimp Sauce

Boiled Premium Bacon with Lima Beans

ASSORTED COLD MEATS WITH POTATO SALAD

Steamed Clams, Bordelaise
Chicken Croquettes aux Petits Pois
Banana Fritters, Lemon Sauce
Poached Eggs Florida

Fried Scallops, Tartare Sauce

Roast Prime Ribs of Beef au Jus, Browned Potatoes
Roast Long Island Goose, Apple Sauce
Roast Rack of Lamb, Mint Jelly

Boiled Potatoes
Creamed Mashed Potatoes
Fresh Kale, Hollandaise
Baked Pumpkin
String Beans au Beurre

SALAD
Lettuce and Tomato
Escarole
Dressings: French Roquefort Mayonnaise Thousand Island

Steamed Citron Pudding, Custard Sauce
Green Apple Pie
Fresh Peach Short Cake
Washington Cream Pie
California Ice Cream
Assorted Small Pastries

CHEESE: American Stilton Gorgonzola Trappist
Toasted Benti's Wafers

Mixed Nuts and Raisins
Preserved Comquotes
Fresh Fruits in Season

Cafe Noir
A. D. Mints

Friday, January 26, 1934
A. O. Hopkins, Chief Steward

Coffee will be served in Smoking Room or on Deck at 8:00 P.M.

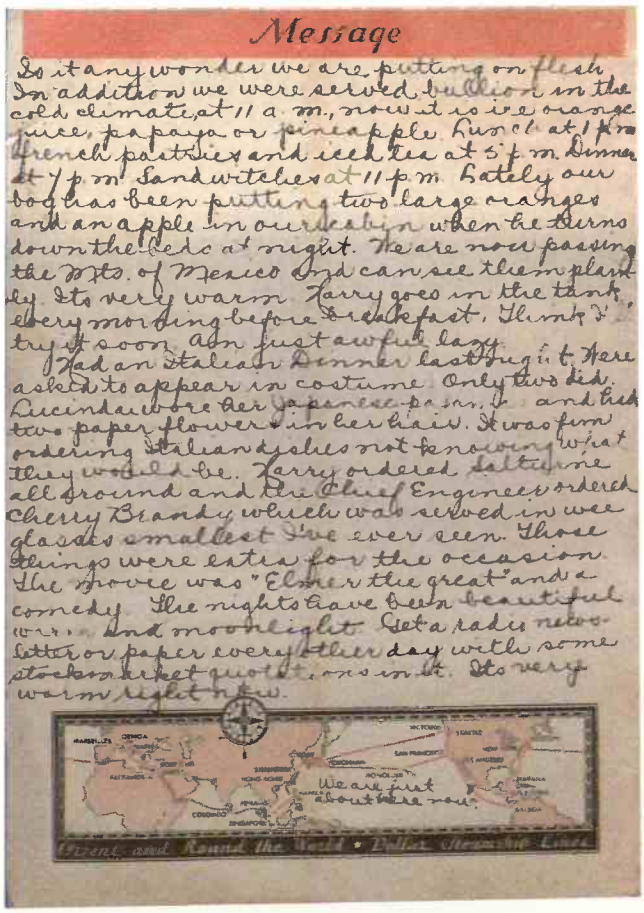
CLOCKS WILL BE RETARDED 30 MINUTES TONIGHT

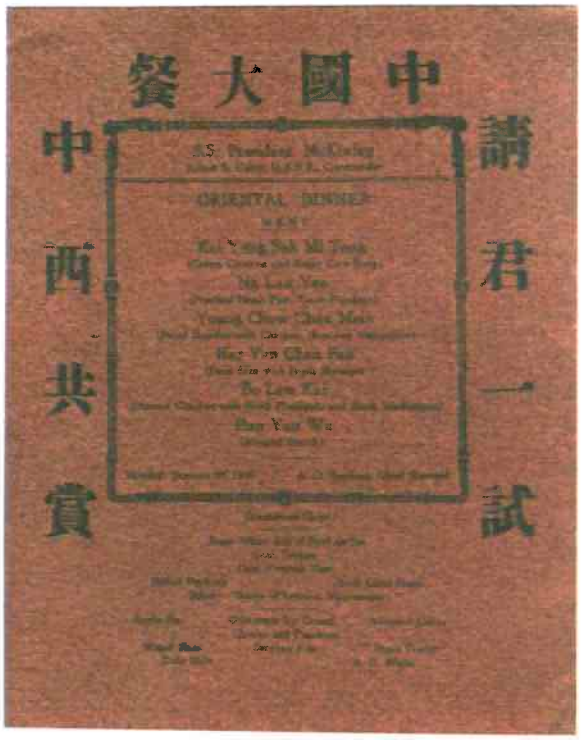
Dinner Menu from January 26th 1934

[Written on back of Dinner Menu]

Is it any wonder we are putting on flesh. In addition, we were served bullion in the cold climate at 11 a.m., now it is iced orange juice, papaya or pineapple. Lunch at 1 p.m.. French pastries and iced tea at 5 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m. Sandwiches at 11 p.m. Lately our boy has been putting two large oranges and an apple in our cabin when he turns down the beds at night. We are now passing the Mts. Of Mexico and can see them plainly. It's very warm. Harry goes in the tank every morning before breakfast. Think I'll try it soon. Am just awful lazy.

Had an Italian Dinner last night. Were asked to appear in costume. Only two did, Lucinda wore her Japanese pajamas and had two paper flowers in her hair. It was fun ordering Italian dishes not knowing what they would be. Harry ordered Sauterne **[wine]** all around and the Chief Engineer ordered Cherry Brandy which was served in wee glasses, smallest I've ever seen. Those things were extra for the occasion. The movie was "Elmer the Great" and a comedy. The nights have been beautiful warm and moonlight. Get a radio news letter or paper every other day with some stock market quotations in it. It's very warm right now.





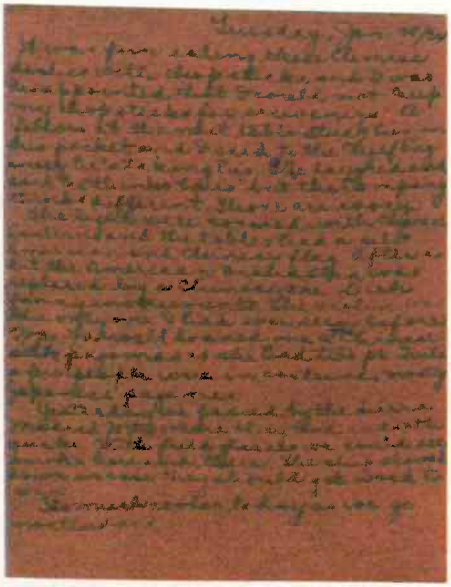
Oriental Dinner on January 29th 1934

[Written on back of Oriental Dinner Menu]

Tuesday, Jan. 30/34

It was fun eating these Chinese dishes with chop sticks and I was disappointed that I could not keep my chop sticks for souvenirs. A fellow at the next table stuck his in his pocket and I said to the Chief Engineer- "He's taking his." He laughed and said- "He thinks he is, but the Company thinks different. Those are ivory." The lights were covered with Chinese lanterns and the tables had a silk American and Chinese flag. After a bit, the American Orchestra was replaced by a Chinese one. Such funny instruments. The violin was the only one I had ever seen before. Mrs. Farwell loaned me a pair of Chinese silk pajamas as she had two pair. Quite a few people were in costume, mostly Japanese pajamas.

Yesterday we passed the Sierra Madre Mts. Where they had am earth-quake. With field-glasses we could see smoke here and there. The ship slowed down in case they should get word to go in. It's much cooler today as we go northward.



Chapter 5 – Across the Pacific Ocean to Hawaii & Japan- March 23rd through April 6th 1934

"The ship rises & falls continually as she rides over the swell of the ocean. " **-letter from Harry to Nona from the middle of the Pacific**

Harry and Ella set out from San Francisco on Friday, March 23 on board the President Hoover which had taken them from L.A. to San Francisco where it docked for the three days they were there. The Hoover was a much bigger steamer than the SS. McKinley which they had taken from New York to L.A, about 22,000 tons. This ship was the cream of the Dollar Steamship Line and was built in 1930, designed as a Trans Pacific steamer and was christened by Mrs. Herbert Hoover. (See detailed description of the ship at the end of this chapter. This beautiful ship unfortunately met its end when it ran aground off Formosa in 1937 and was scuttled.)

SS. President Hoover

The trip from San Francisco to Honolulu was 2,081 nautical miles and took 4 days. They arrived on the 27th of March in Hawaii and stayed there only two nights, probably on board ship, departing on Sunday the 29th. There were no letters written from Honolulu, but Ella apparently sent post cards to Nona. Only the one below has survived with no writing on it.

Surf Board Riding at Waikiki Beach

In 1934, when they visited, Hawaii was still just a territory of the United States, having become so in 1899. It wasn't until 1959 that Hawaii became the 50th state.

The first letter sent from the Pacific was written on Sunday April 1st, about halfway between Hawaii and Japan. Harry said the ship rolled constantly, causing difficulty in walking around and bouts of sea sickness. The weather alternated from sunny and hot to cool and foggy. They kept busy by swimming in the salt water tank, reading, playing cards, and playing shuffleboard, tennis, ping pong and deck golf.

Harry was critical of the excessive drinkers on board: "Their talk is silly and meaningless." One exception was Joe E. Brown, the

comedian and movie star, who Harry apparently talked with and found to be "not a bit stuck-up, just an ordinary guy." Joe E. Brown was one of the top ten box office stars at that time, so it was kind of like talking with Steve Martin or Robin Williams today. For more on him, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_E._Brown_(comedian)

Joe E. Brown

They crossed the International Date Line on Sunday April 1st and gained 24 hours, missing Monday the 2nd. That Sunday they also celebrated Easter with a service read by the ship's doctor.

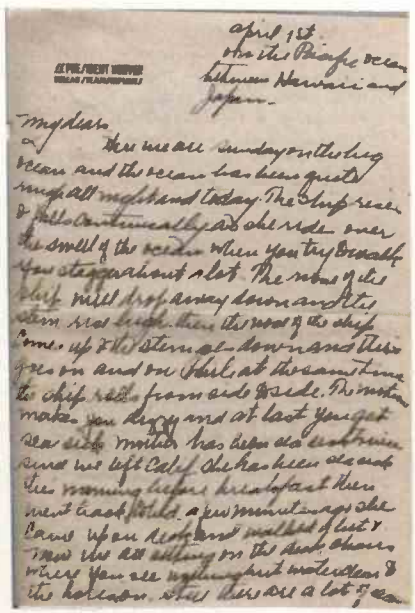
They continued to eat well with big breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Harry thought he hadn't gained weight but commented that "mother will be big and husky as Mrs. B. **[Mrs. Butterfield]** if she keeps on and gets over her sea sickness." At many dinners, there was an orchestra playing and dancing. One evening, they dressed up, with Harry in "drag" as a bathing beauty in Ella's swim suit, with a yellow sweater, a big black hat with flowers and with his face "rouged". He felt very foolish with his hairy legs. Unfortunately, his new pal Joe E. Brown didn't dress up at all, but I wonder whether he got a laugh about my hairy-legged grandfather in drag!

It took 8 days to cruise the 3,394 nautical miles from Honolulu to Yokahama, Japan at a high speed of 20 knots. They arrived on Friday, April 6th in Tokyo Bay.

[Letter 15 from Harry] April 1st, on the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and Japan

My dear,

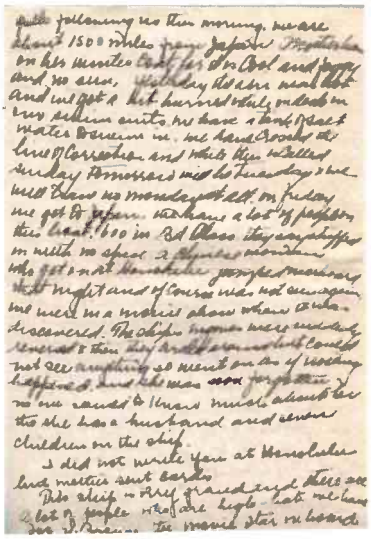
Here we are Sunday on the big ocean and the ocean has been quite rough all night and today. The ship rises + falls continually as she rides over the swell of the ocean. When you try to walk you stagger about a lot. The nose of the ship will drop away down and the stern will rise high, then the nose of the ship comes up + the stern goes down, and this goes on and on while at the same time the ship rolls side to side. The motion makes you dizzy and at last you get sea sick. Mother has been sea sick twice since we left Calif. She has been sea sick this morning before breakfast, then back to bed. A few minutes ago, she came up on deck and walked a bit + now we are sitting on the deck chairs where you see nothing but water clear to the horizon. Still there are lots of sea



gulls following us this morning. We are about 1,500 miles from Japan. Mother has on her winter coat for it'd cool and foggy and no sun. Yesterday the air was hot and we got a bit burned while on deck in our swim suits. We have a tank of salt water to swim in. We have crossed the line of correction and while this is called Sunday, tomorrow will be Tuesday + we will have no Monday at all. On Friday, we get to Japan. We have a lot of people on this boat. 600 in 3rd [?] Class, they say stuffed in with no space. A Chinese woman who got on in Honolulu jumped overboard that night and of course was not seen again. We were in a movie show when it was discovered. The ship's engines were suddenly reversed + then they circled around but could not see anything so went on as if nothing happened, and she was soon forgotten. No one seemed to know much about her tho she has a husband and seven children on the ship.

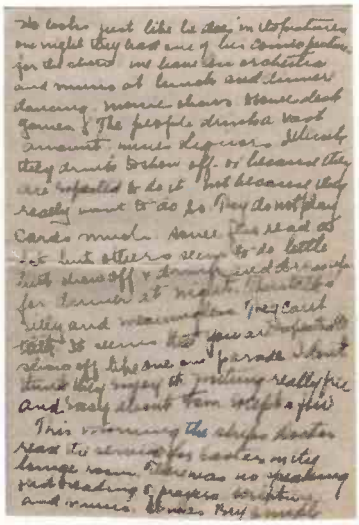
I did not write you at Honolulu, but Mother sent cards.

The ship is very grand and there are a lot of people who are high-hats. We have Joe E. Brown the movie star on board.



He looks just like he does in the pictures. One night they had one of his comic pictures for the show. We have an orchestra and music at lunch and dinner, dancing, movie shows + some deck games. The people drink a vast amount – wines + liquors. I think they drink to show off- or because they are expected to do it – not because they really want to do so. They do not play cards much. Some few read a lot, but others seem to do little but show off + drink and dress up for dinner at night. Their talk is silly and meaningless. They can't talk. It seems that you are expected to show off like one on parade. I don't think they enjoy it. Nothing really free and easy about them. Except a few.

This morning the ship's Doctor read the service for Easter in the lounge room. There was no speaking, just reading of prayers, scripture, and music. It was very simple



and I enjoyed it. Quite a few people were there. The collection taken goes to the seaman's institute in the next port of call.

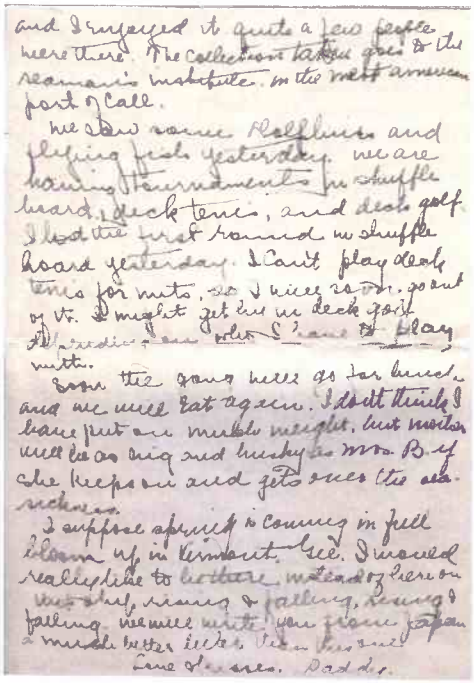
We saw some dolphins and flying fish yesterday. We are having tournaments in shuffle board, deck tennis, and deck golf. I lost the first round in shuffle board yesterday. I can't play deck tennis for nuts, so I will soon go out of it. I might get by in deck golf depending on who I have to play with.

Soon the gong will go for lunch and we will eat again. I don't think I have put on much weight, but Mother will be as big and husky as Mrs. B. if she keeps on and gets over the sea sickness.

I suppose spring is coming in full bloom up in Vermont. Gee, I would really like to be there instead of here on this ship rising + falling, rising + falling. We will write you from Japan a much better letter than this one.

Love + kisses,

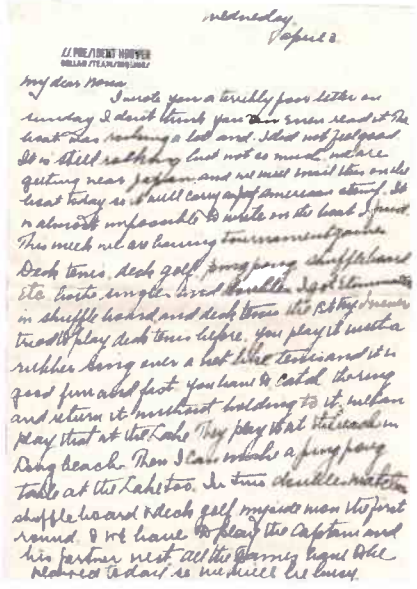
Daddy



[Letter 16 from Harry] Wednesday, April 3 **[actually it was April 4]**

My dear Nona,

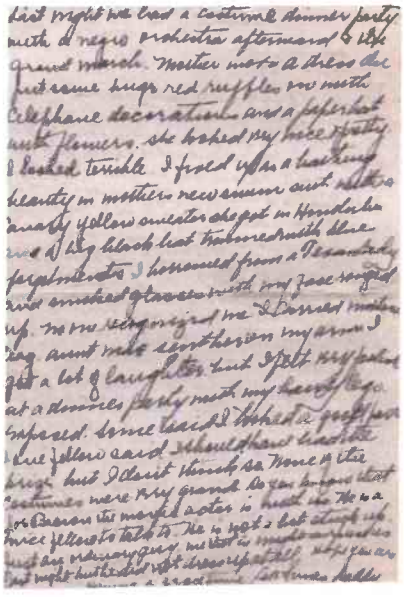
I wrote you a terribly poor letter on Sunday. I don't think you can even read it. The boat was rocking a lot and I did not feel good. It is still rocking but not so much. We are getting near Japan and we will mail this on the boat today, so it will carry an American stamp. It is almost impossible to write on the boat I find. This week we are having tournament games. Deck tennis, deck golf, ping pong, shuffleboard, etc. both singles and doubles. I got eliminated in shuffleboard and deck tennis the 1st try. I never tried to play deck tennis before. You play it with a rubber ring over a net like tennis and it is good fun and fast. You have to catch the ring and return it without holding to it. We can play that at the Lake. They play it at the beach in Long Beach. Then I can make a ping pong table at the Lake, too. In two doubles matches in shuffleboard + deck golf, my side won the first round + we have to play the captain and his partner next. All the games have to be played today, so we will be busy.



Last night we had a costume dinner party with a Negro orchestra afterward + the grand march. Mother wore a dress she put some huge red ruffles on with cellophane decorations and a paper hat with flowers. She looked very nice + pretty. I looked terrible. I fixed up as a bathing beauty in mother's new swim suit with a canary yellow sweater she got in Honolulu and a big black hat trimmed with blue forget-me-nots I borrows from a Texan lady, and smoked glasses with my face rouged up. No one recognized me. I carried mother's bag Aunt Mae sent her on my arm I got a lot of laughter, but In felt very foolish at a dinner party with my hairy legs exposed. Some said I looked a good part + one fellow said I should have had the prize, but I don't think so. None of the costumes were very grand. Do you know that Joe Brown the movie actor is with us? He is not a bit stuck up, just an ordinary guy. We thought he might surprise us last night, but he did not dress up at all. Hope you are having a good time.

Love + kisses,

Daddy



Steamship taken from LA to Japan- 2/21-4/10/1934

Source: History - 1920-31 Vessel Statistics at http://www.apl.com/history/timeline/stat5.htm

President Hoover (First)
Built 1931 by Newport News Shipbuilding Co., Newport News, Virginia. Hull No. 339, O/N 231,008
LOA=654'3", **LBP**=615'0", **B**=81'0" **D**=52'0", **Draft**=34'0"
Displacement=33,400 LT, **Deadweight**= (?), **Gross tonnage**=21,936
Cargo capacity: 608,850 Cu Ft., **Passengers:** 845, **Speed**=20 knots
Machinery: Twin screw, steam turbo electric drive, 26,500 HP @ 133 RPM, 12 B&W WT boilers.
Built for Dollar Steamship Lines. Lost by grounding on Hoi Shoto Island, off the southeast coast of Formosa (now Taiwan) December 10, 1937. No lives were lost.

Chapter 6 – Japan- April 6th through April 16th 1934

"Here we are in Japan and it is some experience to be in such a strange land." -letter from Harry

Japan- showing Yokohama, Tokyo, Kyoto & Kobe which Harry & Ella visited in that order. Not shown is Nikko, which they visited after Yokohama and is about 150 miles north of Yokohama & Tokyo.

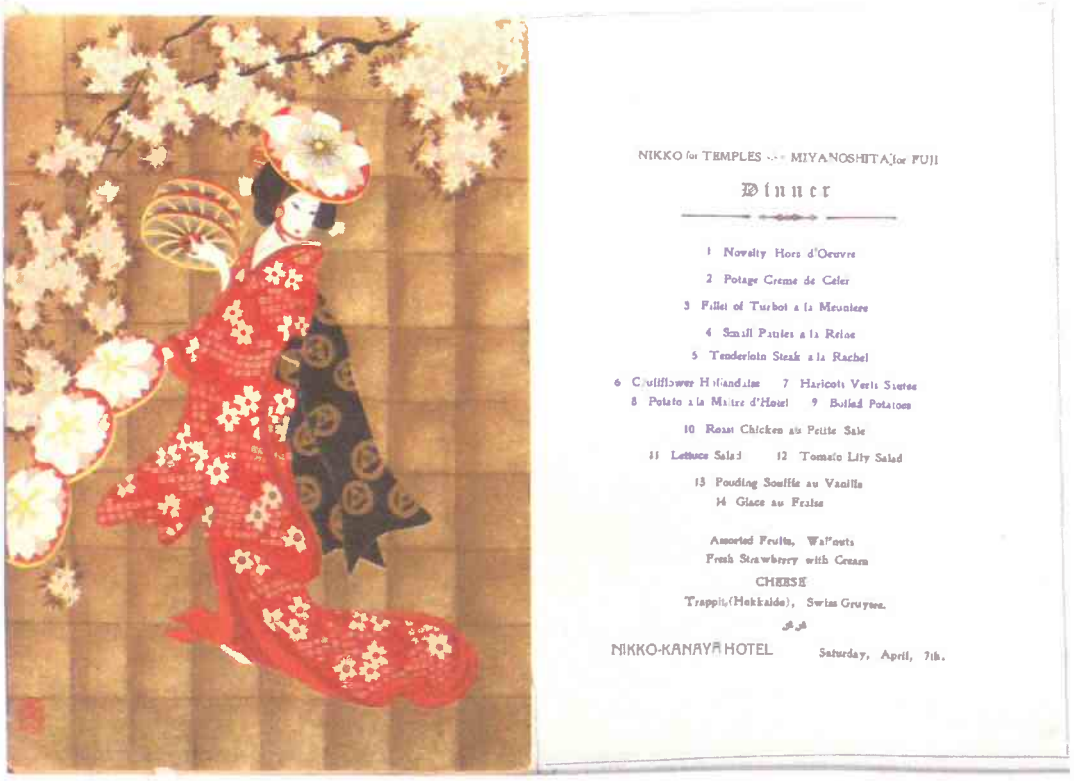
When they arrived in the huge major sea port of Yokahama that Friday morning in early April, 1934, World War II was just seven years from starting, though relations between Japan and the U.S. were already somewhat strained. Yokohama was at the time the 6th largest city in Japan with a population of around 700,000. (Today, it is the largest city in Japan; Tokyo is larger but is considered a prefecture, not a city.) The President Hoover docked there, refueled and stocked up, while passengers like Harry and Ella disembarked to visit the area.

Ships docked in Yokohama Harbor around 1930

That morning, they toured the bustling city by a hired car with others, sight-seeing in the narrow, muddy streets nearby, and then returned for lunch on the ship. That afternoon, they headed to the railway station to catch a train to the city of Nikko, some 3 hours to the north of them. They missed the first train by just one minute and learned the hard way just how punctually the Japanese trains ran. They somehow missed the second train to Nikko before hooking up with three women from California who invited them to share their American Express guide. So Harry tipped the guide and they made it to Nikko that evening.

They stayed in Nikko for two nights at the Nikko-Kanaya Hotel, mostly visiting the local temples and shrines and traveling into the mountains. Nikko (日光市 *Nikkō-shi*[2], literally "sunlight" or "sunshine") was then, and still is, a popular tourist destination, with many temples and shrines, including the Futurasan Shrine with its famous Sacred Lacquer Bridge shown below.

Ella saved their menu (below) from their dinner at the hotel on Saturday night which was mostly American fare with fish (turbot), steak, and chicken.



NIKKO for TEMPLES ... MIYANOSHITA for FUJI

Dinner

1 Novelty Hors d'Oeuvre

2 Potage Creme de Celer

3 Fillet of Turbot a la Meuniere

4 Small Patties a la Reine

5 Tenderloin Steak a la Rachel

6 Cauliflower Hollandaise 7 Haricots Verts Sautes

8 Potato a la Maitre d'Hotel 9 Boiled Potatoes

10 Roast Chicken au Petite Sale

11 Lettuce Salad 12 Tomato Lily Salad

13 Pouding Souffle au Vanilla

14 Glace au Fraise

Assorted Fruits, Walnuts

Fresh Strawberry with Cream

CHEESE

Trappist(Hokkaido), Swiss Gruyere.

NIKKO-KANAYA HOTEL Saturday, April, 7th.

On Sunday morning they left Nikko by train to go back south to Tokyo, the imperial capital of Japan. They went sightseeing around the city mostly by car, but Harry took a short ride in a rickshaw. They saw the Imperial Palaces, including the separate palace reserved for

the heir to the throne of the Emperor, Akihito, who was just over 100 days old at the time. The then Emperor, Hirohito, ruled from 1926 through 1989, and is best remembered as the Emperor during World War II who somehow wasn't tried for war crimes after the war. The young Akihito became Emperor in 1989 and still rules today.

Japanese Rickshaws (postcard saved by Ella Fife)

Harry's letters described the monetary exchange from US dollars to Japanese Yen, which at that time was 3.2 Yen per dollar, so one Yen was about 30 cents. (Today, it takes almost 89 Yen to make one US dollar!) He was good at quickly converting Japanese prices to dollar equivalents, so their fellow foreign tourists often turned to him for help while shopping.

Harry described in detail the colorful Japanese clothing and wooden shoes. He noted that not everyone wore Japanese clothing with a sprinkling of men wearing American or British styles including suits.

They stayed Sunday night at a "foreign" hotel in Tokyo. The "foreign" hotels catered to Americans and other foreigners and provided more traditional American privacy in their rooms with private baths and less formality. In the Japanese hotels, the baths were usually communal, the mattresses were laid directly on the floor and there was much formality in removing foot-ware.

On Monday, April 9th, they opted to board a train westward to Kyoto, while the President Hoover steamed southwest from Yokahama to the port city of Kobe, just south of Kyoto. They chose the observation car so they could see more and because the other cars were very crowded. They arrived in Kyoto that morning and Harry took another rickshaw to visit a professor at Doshisha University who was a graduate of Middlebury College in Vermont where Harry was the head of the Economics Department. Unfortunately, the professor didn't take much time with him, so he soon left.

That afternoon, they went sightseeing and shopping, buying some colorful silk kimonos for Nona and for Ella's sister Jen and others. Sightseeing again included mostly Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines throughout Kyoto, which eventually became tiresome to them. They apparently stayed in Kyoto at the Kyoto Hotel probably for three nights before taking a short 1 hour train ride to the port city of Kobe, where their ship was docked, on Wednesday April 12th.

THE KYOTO HOTEL

Cable address "KYOHO Kyoto"

THE MOST MODERN HOTEL IN JAPAN

Rotary Headquarters

A splendid steel framed and reinforced construction, fire and earthquake proof, 120 bedrooms, most of them with private bathroom, beautiful roof garden overlooking the entire city, centrally located for shopping and sight-seeing.

Only 1 hour from Kobe
½ hour from Osaka

From hotel brochure saved by Ella Fife

Sometime during their stay in Kyoto, they attended a recital of the traditional Cherry Dance ballet (the Miyako Odori) performed by geisha girls at the Gion Dancing and Music School. The dance had been performed every April since 1872 and consisted of 28 dancers, 11 singers, 11 drummers and 1 flute player. The geishas were selected from the fashionable red-light Gion quarter which dates back to 1790. Ella saved the souvenir booklet from the ceremony which contains many interesting pictures and paintings of Japan like the following two:

Geishas performing the Cherry Dance

From souvenir booklet of Cherry Dance in Kyoto

When they arrived in Kobe on the 12th, they were very disappointed not to receive any mail from home, particularly from Nona. Harry's Scottish ways surfaced again as they tried a cheaper hotel, but were forced to move due to the horrid conditions and food. With the help of Harry's former Middlebury College student, Grant, who worked in Kobe at the National City Bank, they selected the Kobe Hotel which was much better and only about $2.50 a day.

That day, they had a scare when Ella misplaced her purse which contained $500 in traveler's checks. Everyone at the hotel helped search for it and it finally turned up at Grant's house. This led Harry to observe how nice and helpful most Japanese were to them, but note that some Japanese gave them "black looks" periodically, and a few young men would "charge right into you" on the street. However, most liked American tourists and treated them well.

Grant got them invited to the American consul's house for an elaborate Chinese style dinner with several courses. He also tried to get Harry permission to visit a local factory, but it's unclear whether he did due to the high security surrounding them.

Street scene in Kobe from postcard saved by Ella Fife

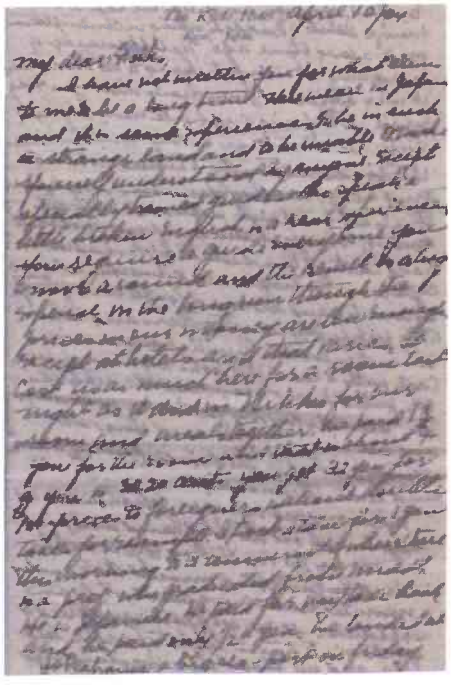
On Monday, April 16th, their ship, the President Hoover steamed to Shanghai, China from Kobe while they decided to take another Japanese boat farther north of Shanghai to Tientsin on the coast just south of Peiping (now Beijing). So they left Japan either Monday or Tuesday for China.

There is a 12 page letter from Harry started on April 10th from Kyoto and probably finished on April 13th in Kobe. It was written to some friends, likely the Butterfields who were taking care of Nona in Middlebury. In addition, there is a short letter to Nona from Harry probably stuck in the same envelope as the Butterfield's letter. A short two page letter to Nona from Ella also was written from Kobe around April 13th.

[Letter 17 from Harry] The Kyoto Hotel, Kyoto, Japan April 10/34

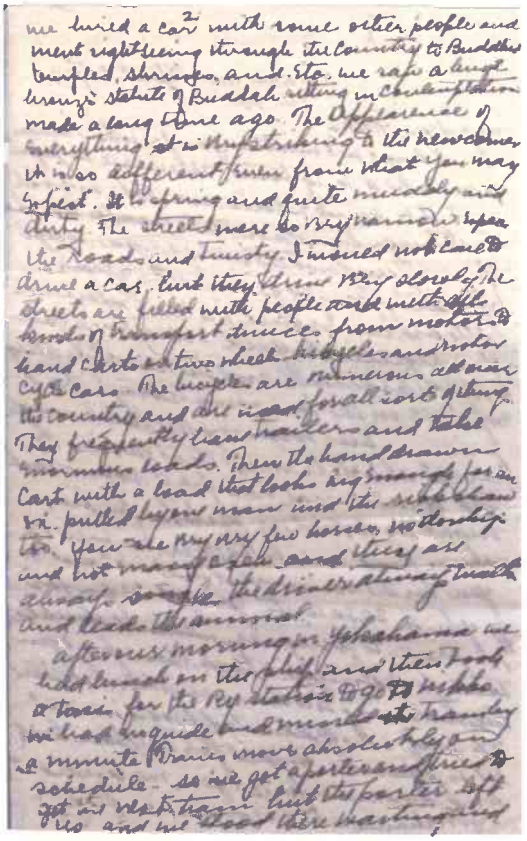
My dear Folks,

I have not written you for what seems to me to be a long time. Here we are in Japan and it is some experience to be in such a strange land and to be unable to make yourself understood by anyone, except specially trained guides who speak a little broken English is a real experience. You require a guide every time you move around and the result is a big expense in the long run though the prices in our money are low enough, except at hotels and that varies. It cost us as much here **[Kyoto]** for a room last night as it did in Nikko for our room and meals together. We paid 13 Yen for the room and that is about $4. A Yen is 30.2 cents; you get 32 Yen for $10. Prices to foreigners is about double. Taxis for example. I took a taxi for 1 Yen this morning to a university where there is a prof. who graduated from Midd. He is Japanese. He paid for my taxi back and he paid only ½ a yen. We landed at Yokohama, a big sea-port on Friday

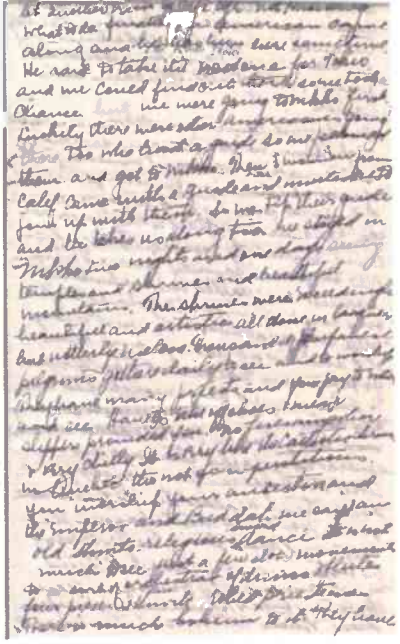


We hired a car with some other people and went sightseeing through the country to Buddhist temples, shrines, etc. We saw a huge bronze statue of Buddha sitting in contemplation made a long time ago. The appearance of everything is very striking to the newcomer; it is so different from what you may expect. It is spring and quite muddy and dirty. The streets were so very narrow espec. The roads and twisty. I would not care to drive a car but they drive very slowly. The streets are filled with people and with all kinds of transport devices from motors to hand carts on two wheels, bicycles, and motor cycle cars. The bicycles are numerous all over the country and are used for all sorts of things. They frequently have trailers and take enormous loads. Then the hand drawn cart with a load that looks big enough for an ox pulled by one man, and the rickshaw too. You see very very few horses, no donkeys, and not many oxen and they are always single. The driver always walks and leads the animal.

After our morning in Yokohama we had lunch on the ship and then took a taxi for the railway station to go to Nikko. We had no guide and missed the train by a minute. Trains move absolutely on schedule. So we got a porter and tried to get the next train, but the porter left us and we stood there waiting and

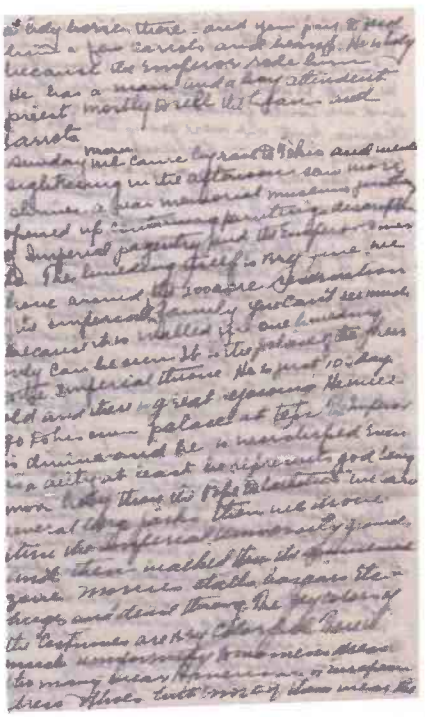


let another train go by not knowing what to do. Finally an American came along and he has been here some time. He said to take the next one for Tokyo and we could find out there so we took a chance, but were going to Nikko first. Luckily there were other Americans going there too who had a guide so we followed them and got to Nikko. Then 3 women from Calif. Came with a guide and invited us to join up with them. So we tip their guide and he takes us along too. We stayed in Nikko two nights and one day seeing temples and shrines and beautiful mountains. The shrines were exceedingly beautiful and artistic, all done in lacquer, but utterly useless. Thousands of Japanese pilgrims gather daily to see and to worship. They have many priests and you pay to enter and see. Have to take off shoes + wear slippers provided you. No fires anywhere + very chilly. It is very like the Catholic church in Quebec tho not so superstitious. You worship your ancestors and the Emperor and Buddha. We saw an old Shinto religious sword dance. It is not much to see, just a few slow movements + a sort of orchestra of drums + flute, four pieces I think, robed priestesses. There is much hokum to it. They have



a holy horse there and you pay to feed him a few carrots and beans. He is holy because the Emperor rode him. He has a man and a boy attendant priest, mostly to sell the beans and carrots.

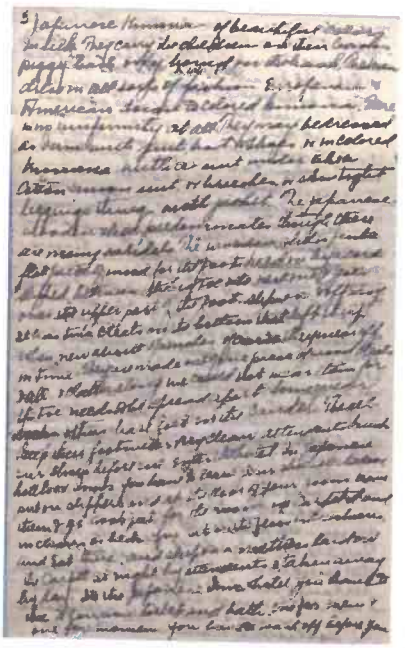
Sunday morning **[April 8th]**, we came by train to Tokyo and went sightseeing in the afternoon, saw more shrines, a war memorial museum just being opened up containing painting descriptions of Imperial pageantry and the Emperor's war etc. the building itself is very fine. We drove around the 200 acre reservation of the Imperial family. You can't see much because it is walled in. One building only can be seen. It is the palace of the heir to the Imperial throne **[Akihito]**. He is just 100 days old and there is great rejoicing. He will go to his own palace at ten. The Emperor is divine and he is worshiped even as a deity. At least he represents god being more holy than the Pope to Catholics. We saw several large parks, then we drove thru the Imperial University grounds and then walked thru the amusement zone. Movies, stalls, bazaars, etc. a huge dense throng. The gay colors of the costumes are very colorful. There is much uniformity to women's dress tho many wear American + European dress + shoes, but most of them wear the



Japanese kimono of beautiful colors in silk. They carry the children on their backs piggy back only bound on the back. The men dress in all sorts of

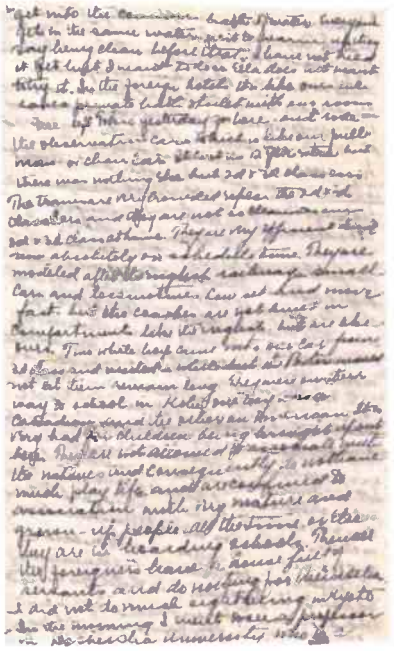
Picture saved by Ella Fife

fashion. European + American down to colored kimono. There is no uniformity at all. They may be dressed as I am with suit, hat + shoes or in colored kimono with a suit under like a cotton union suit, or breeches, or skin tight leggings with jacket. The Japanese wooden shoe predominates though there are many sandals. The wooden shoe is just a flat piece of wood for the foot held on by a cord slipped between the big toe + the next one + goes over the upper part of the foot, slips on + off easy. It has two cleats on the bottom that lift it up, when new about 1 ½ inches, of course they wear off in time. They are made out of one piece of wood, cleats + all + clatter along. We could not wear them for the toe needs to be spread apart. Some wear socks, others bare foot on the sandal. They all keep their footwear very clean. Attendants brush our shoes before we enter the hotel. In Japanese hotels or inns, you have to leave your shoes at the door, put on slippers and at the door of your room leave them + go sock feet for the room is carpeted and no chairs or beds. You sit on the floor on cushions and eat there, and sleep on a mattress laid on the carpet at night by attendants + taken away by day. In the Japanese inns + hotels, you have to use a common toilet and bath, one for men + one for women. You have to wash off before you



get into the common bath of water. Everyone gets in the same water just to warm up they say, being clean before that. I have not tried it yet but I want to do so. Ella does not want to try it. In the foreign hotels, it is like ours. We have a private bath + toilet with our room.

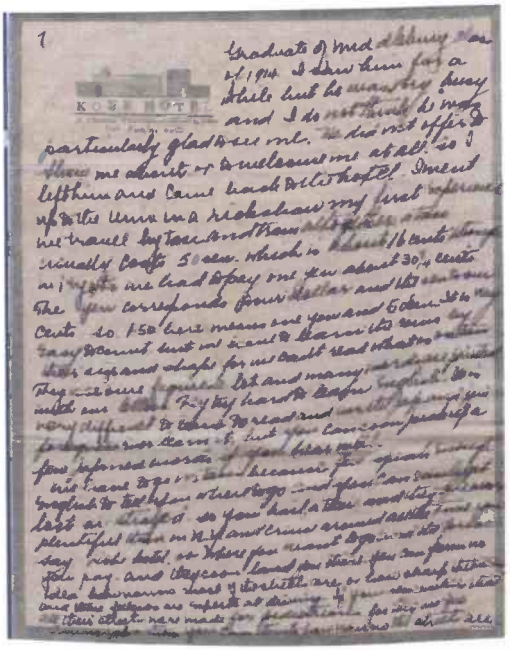
We left Tokyo yesterday [April 9th] for here [Kyoto] and rode in the observation car which is like our Pullman or chair car. It cost us 12 Yen extra but there was nothing else but 2d + 3rd class cars. The trains are very crowded espec. the 2d and 3rd class cars. They are very efficient and run absolutely on time. They are modeled after the English railways, small cars and locomotives, low set and move fast, but the coaches are not built in compartments like the English, but are like ours. Two white boys came into our car from 3rd class and visited a while but the porter would not let them remain long. They were on their way to school in Kobe. One boy was a Canadian and the other an American. It is very hard for children being brought up out here. They are not allowed to associate with the natives and consequently do not have much play life, and are confined to association with very mature and grown-up people all the time or else they are in boarding schools, Then all the foreigners have a house full of servants and do nothing for themselves. In the morning I went to see a professor in Doshisha University who is a



Kobe Hotel

graduate of Middlebury, class of 1914. I saw him for a while but he was very busy and I do not think he was particularly glad to see me. He did not offer to show me about or to welcome me at all, so I left him and came back to the hotel. I went up to the University in a rickshaw, my first experience. We travel by taxi and train altogether, a taxi usually costs 50 sen which is about 16 cents though in Kyoto we had to pay one Yen, about 30 ¼ cents. The Yen corresponds to our dollar and the sen to our cents, so 1.50 here means one Yen and 50 sen. It is very easy to count, but we have to learn the coins by their size and shape for we can't read what is on them. They use our figures a lot and many words are printed with our letters. They try hard to learn English. It is very difficult to learn to read and write Japanese and few foreigners ever learn it, but you can soon pick up a few Japanese words if you hear well.

We have to go in taxis because few speak enough English to tell you where to go and you can easily get lost or strayed so you hail a taxi, and they are more plentiful than in N.Y. and cruise around all the time. You say: "Kobe Hotel", or wherever you want to go and the price you pay and they soon land you there. You can form no idea how narrow most of the streets are or how sharp the turns, and these fellows are experts at driving. If you remember that all their streets were made for pedestrians then you can think how narrow the streets are.

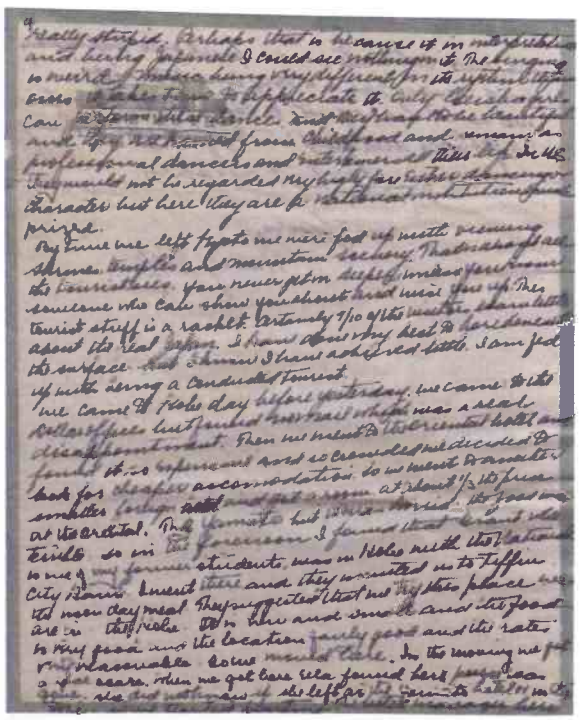


Many of them are no wider than some of our side-walks. There are no side-walks except on new streets so when a car comes by you crowd over to the buildings. The sewer is apparently a little stone walled ditch at the edge of the street. Then the houses + buildings come right out to the ditch, and they are very different from our houses. The fronts are entirely closed up or they have frosted glass, so you can't even get a peek. It is funny that they should be so concealed for the people are not careful of privacy in things we regard as very private such as taking a bath or going to the toilet. In a Japanese inn, if you want a bath, you can't take it in private. Another man or woman might come in and take one at the same time. In a Japanese hotel, you wash before you go into the warm tub of water and everyone uses the same water. We have not gone to a Japanese hotel yet. Mother does not want to try it. I would like to have the experience.

In the afternoon in Kyoto, I went with Ella and the other women with the guide to do some shopping and sightseeing. We saw some art work in china, jewelry, and so on. They certainly do some very beautiful hand work and some of the things are wonderful. They require skill and artistic ability. At a silk shop, we bought some kimonos. I got a bath kimono. Ella got one for Jen and the other ladies each got one I think. The silks are gorgeously beautiful, so colorful, dainty and artistic. Ella wants to get Nona a full Japanese dress outfit. They are lovely in their way though I imagine we will get tired of them. We went to see the famous tea ceremony and Geisha girls perform the annual Cherry blossom dance. The costumes are very beautiful and the girls were all made up for the occasion but I thought the ceremony + dance really stupid. Perhaps that is because it is interpretive and being Japanese I could see nothing in it. The singing is weird, music being very different in its rhythm than ours. It takes time to appreciate it. Only Geisha girls can perform these dances and they have to be beautiful and they are trained from childhood and remain as professional dancers and entertainers all their life. In the U.S. they would not be regarded very highly for either dancing or character but here they are a national institution much prized.

By the time we left Kyoto we were fed up with viewing shrines, temples and mountain scenery. That is about all the tourist sees. You never get in deeper unless you know someone who can show you about and wise you up. This tourist stuff is a racket. Certainly 9/10 of the visitors learn little about the real Japan. I have done my best to bore beneath the surface, but I know I have achieved little. I am fed up with being a conducted tourist.

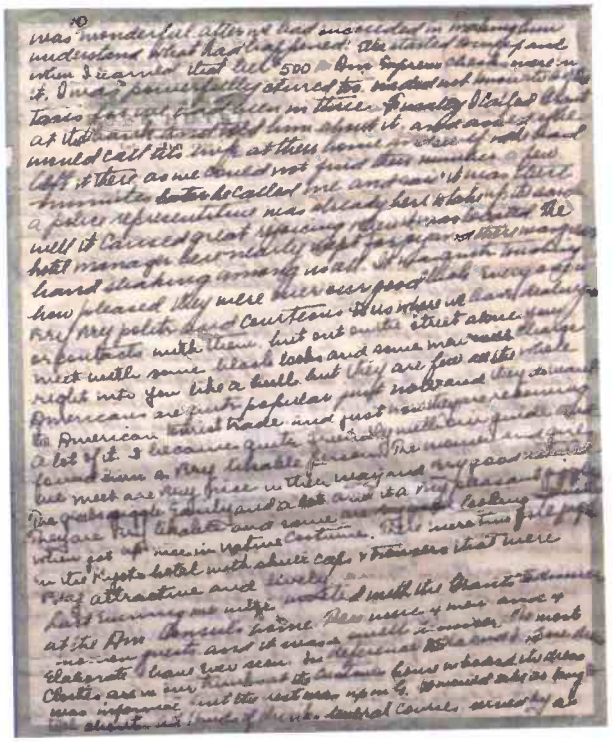
We came to Kobe day before yesterday **[Weds. April 12th]**. We came to the Dollar **[Cruise Line]** Offices, but found no mail which was a real disappointment. Then we went to the Oriental Hotel and found it so expensive and so crowded we decided to look for cheaper accommodations. So we went to another smaller foreign hotel and got a room at about 1/3 the price at the Oriental. The Yamaha, but it was horrid. The food was terrible so in the forenoon, I found that Grant, who is one of my former students, was in Kobe with the National City Bank. I went there and they invited us to tiffin, the noon day meal. They suggested that we try this place we are in- the Kobe. It is new and small and the food is very good and the location fairly good and the rates reasonable. So we moved here. In the moving we got a real scare. When we got here, Ella found her purse was gone. She did not know if she left it at the Yamaha Hotel or in the taxi. So we started hunting. The hotel manager here



was wonderful. After we had succeeded in making him understand what had happened. Ella started to weep and when I learned that our $500 in Am. Express checks were in it, I was powerfully stirred too. We did not know the # of the taxis for we had been in three. Finally I called Grant at the bank and told him about it, and asked if he would call his wife at their home and see if she had left it there, as we could not find their number. A few

minutes later he called me and said it was there. A police representative was already here to take up the search. Well, it caused great rejoicing when it was located. The hotel manager here nearly wept for joy and there was great hand shaking among us all. It was quite touching how pleased they were over our good luck. Everyone is very very polite and courteous to us where we have dealings or contact with them, but out on the street alone you meet with some black looks and some men will charge right into you like a bull, but they are few. All the whole, Americans are quite popular just now and they do want the American tourist trade, and just now they are receiving a lot of it. I became quite friendly with our guide and found him a very likable person. The women and girls we meet are very nice in their way and very good-natured. The girls giggle easily and a lot, and it is a very pleasant giggle. They are very likable and some are vey good looking especially when got up nice in natural costumes. There were two girl pages in the Kyoto Hotel with skull caps + trousers that were very attractive and lively.

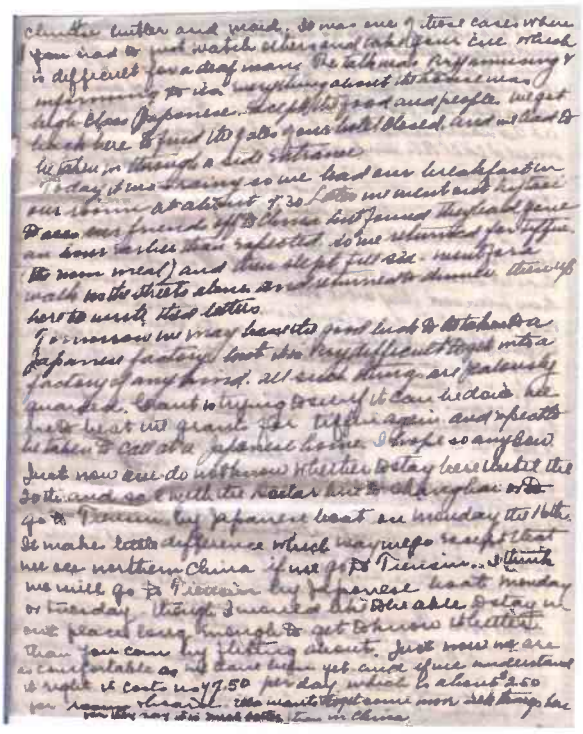
Last evening we were invited with the Grants to dinner at the Am. Consul's home. There were 4 men and 4 women guests, and it was a swell dinner, the most elaborate I have ever seen. In deference to Ella and I, whose dress clothes are in our trunks at the customs house on board, the dress was informal, but the rest was up in S[hanghai?].It would take too long to tell about it. all kinds of drinks, several courses served by a



Chinese butler and maid. It was one of those cases where you had to just watch and take your cue. Which is difficult for a deaf man. The talk was very amusing + informing to us. Everything about the house was high class Japanese, except the food and people. We got back here to find the gates of our hotel closed and we had to be taken in through a side entrance.

Today [Thursday April 13th] it was raining so we had our breakfast in our room at about 9:30. Later we went by taxi to see our friends off to China but found they had gone an hour earlier than expected. So we returned for tiffin (the noon meal) and then slept till six- went for a walk in the streets alone and returned to dinner, then up to write these letters.

Tomorrow we may have good luck to be taken to a Japanese factory but it is very difficult to get into a factory of any kind. All such things are jealously guarded. Grant is trying to see if it can be done. We are to be at the Grants for tiffin again and expect to taken to call at a Japanese home. I hope so anyhow. Just now we do not know whether to stay here until the 20th and sail with the Dollar line to Shanghai or go to Tientsin by Japanese boat on Monday the 16th. It makes little difference which way we go except that we see northern China if we go to Tientsin. I think we will go to Tientsin by Japanese boat Monday or Tuesday, though I would like to be able to stay in one place long enough to get to know it better than you can by flitting about. Just now we are as comfortable as we have been yet, and if we understand it right, it costs 7.50 Yen which is about $2.50 for room + board. Ella wants to get some more silk things here for they say it is better than in China



we will not write more about our impressions just now. This is a very long letter as it is. We will have to get back and keep this to refresh our memory.

With best wishes-

Yours

Harry Fife

[Letter 10 from Ella]

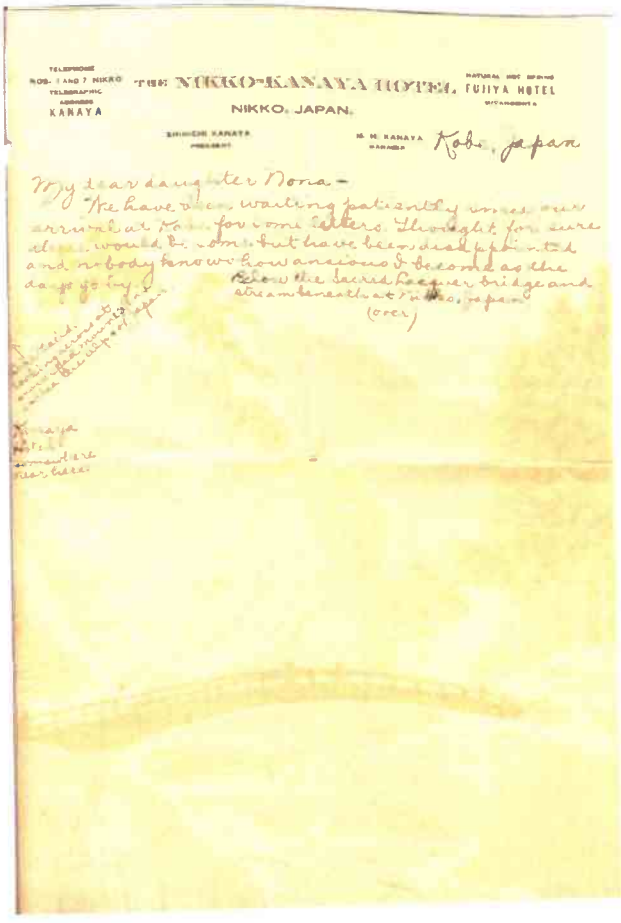
Kobe, Japan

My dear daughter Nona-

We have been waiting patiently since our arrival at Kobe for dome letters. Thought for sure there would be some, but have been disappointed and nobody knows how anxious I become as the days go by.

Below the Sacred Lacquer Bridge and stream beneath at Nikko, Japan.

[written on left margin:] Lake Placid looking across at snow clad mountains called the Alps of Japan. Kanaya Hotel somewhere near here.


THE NIKKO-KANAYA HOTEL
NIKKO, JAPAN.
Kobe, Japan
My dear daughter Nona –
We have been waiting patiently to see our
arrival at Kobe for some letters. Thought for sure
(over)

We have learned a few words in Japanese and have a little book with a few English and Japanese words in it. Thank you is irigato. Good morning is Ohayo, or as one lady said "Ohio", etc.

Everything is very strange in this country. The streets are narrow with no side-walks and folks go clack, clack, clacking along on their wooden shoes that look like this No two people seem to be dressed alike. We have been going around with a Mrs. Matthiesen and daughter and sister from California and a Miss Wilson from New York. They had an American Express guide and liked to have us along so it's been real jolly. They relied on Daddy to tell them what Yen and sen were in our money. I have got so I can reckon it up myself now right quickly. They have gone on now to China, and we shall miss them and no doubt they will miss us too.

Daddy rode in a rickshaw in Tokyo while we went with the guide to visit a Temple and to see lacquer ware and cloisonné ware made. Also to see a culture oyster with a huge pearl grown in it, The oyster with the pearl in it right where it grew was on display in an alcohol jar. There are so many pretty things to buy I do wish I had more money and more space to carry things.

Suppose it's quite spring-like in Vermont now and soon the hyacinths and tulips will be up, and you will be playing ball and having a grand time.

Hope you are all well and happy. It seems a long, long time since we have heard from you Nona. Even at Long Beach, you did not write much.

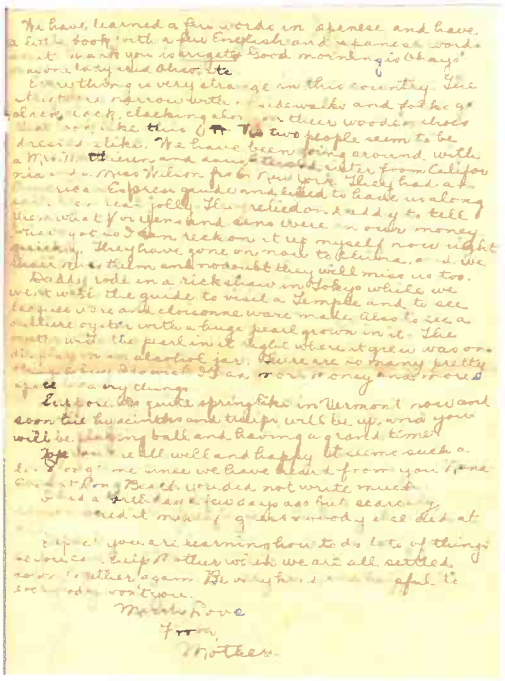
I had a birthday a few days ago [her 41st on April 9th] but scarcely remembered it myself – guess nobody else did at all.

Expect you are learning how to do lots of things so you can help Mother when we are all settled down together again. Be very kind and helpful tooooo everybody won't you.

Much Love

From,

Mother



[Letter 18 from Harry]

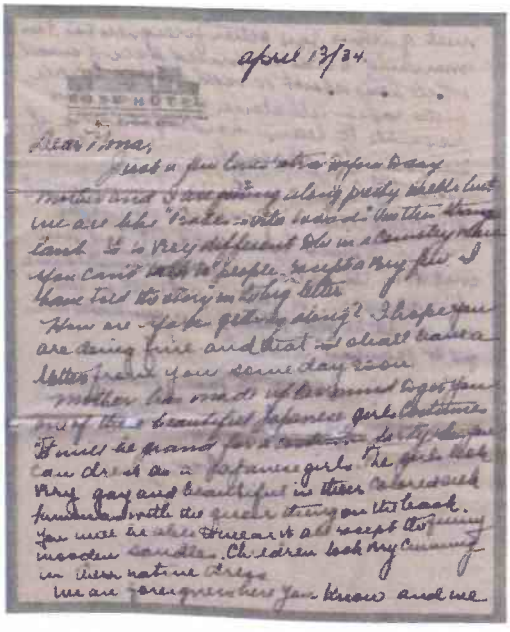
Kobe Hotel April 13/34

Dear Nona,

Just a few lines extra to you to say Mother and I are getting along pretty well, but we are like "Babes in the Woods" in this strange land. It is very different to be in a country where you can't talk to people, except a very few. I have told the story in the long letter.

Mother has made up her mind to get you one of those beautiful Japanese girls costumes. It will be grand for a costume party when you can dress as a Japanese girl. The girls look very gay and beautiful in their colored silk kimonos with the queer thing on the back. You will be able to wear it all except the funny wooden sandals. Children look very cunning in their native dress.

We are foreigners here you know and we



April 13/34.

KOBE HOTEL

Dear Nona,

Just a few lines extra to you to say Mother and I are getting along pretty well, but we are like "Babes in the Woods" in this strange land. It is very different to be in a country where you can't talk to people, except a very few. I have told the story in the long letter.

How are you getting along? I hope you are doing fine and that we shall have a letter from you some day soon.

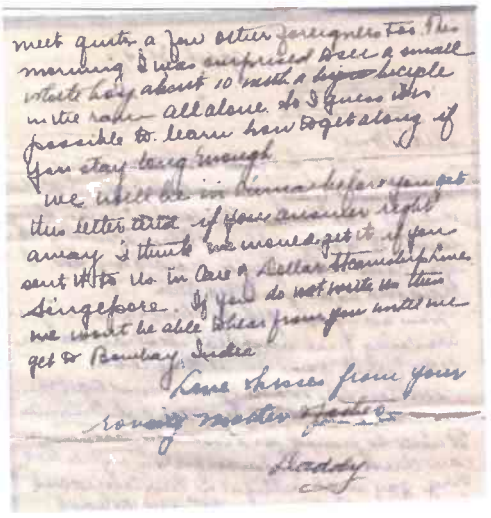
Mother has made up her mind to get you one of those beautiful Japanese girls costumes. It will be grand for a costume party when you can dress as a Japanese girl. The girls look very gay and beautiful in their colored silk kimonos with the queer thing on the back. You will be able to wear it all except the wooden sandals. Children look very cunning in their native dress.

We are foreigners here you know and we

meet quite a few other foreigners too. This morning I was surprised to see a small white boy about 10 with a bicycle in the rain all alone. I guess it is possible to learn how to get along if you stay long enough.

We will be in China before you get this letter and if you answer right away, I think we would get it if you sent it to us in care of Dollar Steamship Lines, Singapore. If you do not write us there we won't be able to hear from you until we get to Bombay, India.

Love + kisses from your loving mother + father. Daddy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Love + kisses from your
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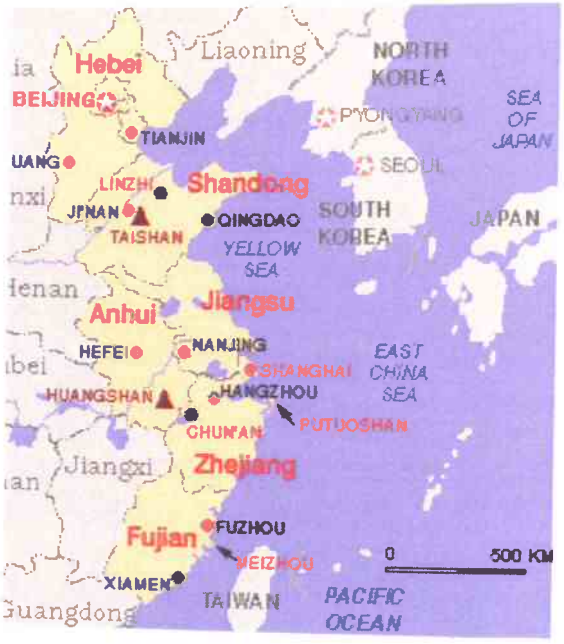
Daddy

Chapter 7 – China/Hong Kong- April 16th through May 25th 1934

"Will you make your letters interesting like Teddy Roosevelt did in writing to his children from Africa so we can get a book printed?" **-letter from 10 year-old Nona to her parents**



Eastern China- showing Tianjin (formerly Tientsin), Beijing (formerly Peiping), Shanghai, and Nanjing (formerly Nanking) which Harry & Ella visited.

Their boat trip on April 16th from Japan took them across the Yellow Sea to the port city of Tientsin (now Tianjin) in Northern China just south of the old capital city of Peiping (now Beijing). Although their letters had said nothing during their 10 days in Japan, they were uncomfortable there and Harry now said they were "constantly watched while there and listened to and **[we]** were glad to leave". Harry went on to say he "feared very much that there will be serious trouble with Japan and the U.S.".

Their stay in Tientsin was even more comfortable because of the great hospitality of Thomas Sun, a Chinese native who had graduated from Middlebury College just three years previous to their arrival, who now lived with his family there. Thomas and his wife's families were both rich and well-educated. They all spoke English fluently and loved America and Americans. Many were graduates of American colleges.

Following traditional Chinese parental respect, Thomas first took them to his father-in-law's house which Harry said was "the largest and most beautiful I was ever in in all my life". They sipped Chinese tea and discussed world affairs, then toured the mansion. In Tientsin they visited a German café, the waterfront, and the business district before going to Thomas's father's house, again a large and beautiful place. The elder Mr. Sun was 70 and a retired philanthropist who owned many beautiful artifacts.

That Saturday evening there was a huge Chinese feast at Thomas's house with seven other Chinese guests and numerous delectable courses including shark fins. Harry and Ella had trouble using the ivory chop sticks, but enjoyed the meal and conversation immensely.

Tientsin was then divided into several foreign areas called "concessions" which were created in the late 19th century by the Emperor to facilitate trade with many western countries. While Britain, France and even Japan had concessional territory assigned to them, the U.S. did not but it shared part the British and some Chinese territory and also maintained a military garrison there until Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941.

Harry commented that British concession was very clean and quiet, but the Japanese concession was "terrible with opium dens that are unsafe and very bad."

While in Tientsin, they stayed at the Astor House Hotel, the oldest European hotel in China. Many famous people had stayed there including Sun Yat Sen, Herbert Hoover, and Ulysses S Grant. Just 3 years later the city of Tientsin would fall to the Japanese in the Second Sino-Japanese War.

On Monday, April 23rd, they took a train a bit north to the ancient capital city of China, then called Peiping (formerly Peking, but today Beijing). There they stayed in a comfortable old boarding hostelry run by an American woman who had married a Chinese graduate of Harvard University. They had plenty of room and their fellow boarders were mostly other foreigners. From this base, they went sightseeing throughout the bustling city, mostly by rickshaw. Renting a rickshaw for a day cost only one "Mexican dollar", the equivalent 35 U.S. cents.

The "Mexican dollars" that Harry comments on in his letters were in fact silver coins originally coined by Mexico to facilitate trade in Hong Kong, Shanghai and much of China. The British and other governments had backed them as the only valid commercial coinage since the mid 1800's, but they were phased out by the Chinese Nationalist government soon after Harry and Ella departed.

In Peiping, they stayed for 17 days, sightseeing all over including at the Winter Palace, the Temple of Confucious, the Llama Temple, the Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City, and a side trip north to the Great Wall of China and the Tombs of the Ming Dynasty.

The Chien Men Gate, Peking. Postcard saved by Ella Fife.

Harry described the Winter Palace as "so elaborate, so many avenues and alleys, all over a high hill, I could not write about it all in a letter." However, he chose to describe in detail their 37 mile car trip north to Nankou where they saw parts of the Great Wall of China. The wall was 2,000 years old, almost 18 feet high, and 1,400 miles long. 1 million men died making it. Harry's legs ached from the climb and Ella shied away from the higher points.

Postcard of the Great Wall, one of 5 saved by Ella

On the way back from Nankou, they headed by car to the site of the Ming Tombs just north of Peiping. The roads were terrible and one car broke an axle, causing them to crowd together as many as possible in the other cars, while some men were left until the cars could return. Though Harry offered his seat to a woman, he somehow went with the cars thus avoiding a 6 mile walk.

Their visit to the Ming Tombs is also described in detail. Thirteen Emperors from the Ming Dynasty are buried here, including the third Emperor Yongle who moved the capital from Nanjing to the current Beijing. The Emperors were buried in separate mausoleums from 1420 through 1624.

Harry described their drive up paved road (called the Spirit Way) going up to the elaborate entrance gate "of sculptured marble...probably 30 Feet high with sculptured marble figures of dragons." Marble statues of lions, camels, elephants, and unicorns both standing and kneeling lined the road The structures were "several times larger than any building in Middlebury." Harry was amazed at the scale of the tombs and magnificence of the materials used including marble, tile, lacquered woodwork, and stone. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ming_Dynasty_Tombs for more on the Ming Tombs.

Animal statues on the Spirit way to the Ming Tombs.

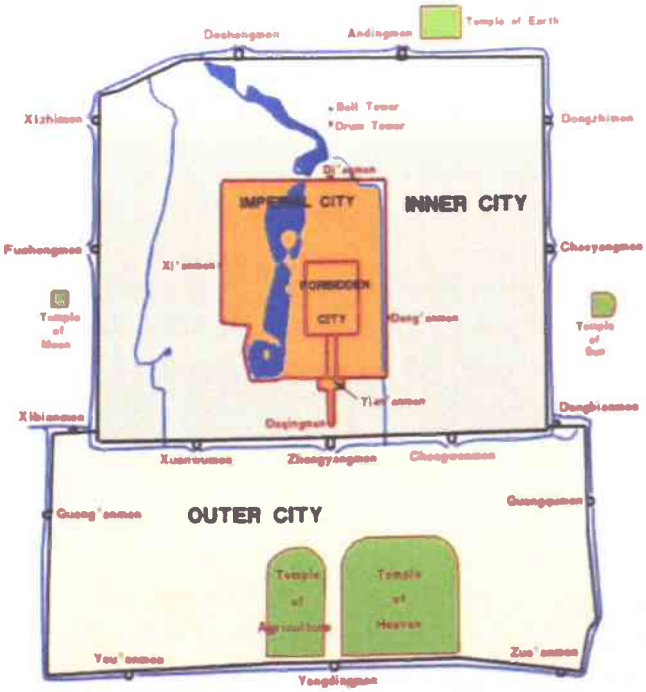
Next, they saw the Temple of Confucious where the writings of Confucious were preserved on stone tablets, then went to the Llama Temple, a Tibetan Buddhist temple and monastery where they bumped into Harry's friend from onboard the President Hoover, Joe E. Brown the comedian. Harry was talked into buying a carved image of the Goddess of Mercy which was supposedly made of jade for $2.

Next was the Temple of Heaven also built by the Emperor Yongle in the earl 1400s where the emperors all went to annually to pray for a good harvest.. This temple is one of best known religious sites in China and Harry . Below is a postcard Ella saved showing (as she wrote on the back) "a close-up of marble stairway up to alter of Temple of Heaven. The dragon **[in the]** marble slab appears before most all Imperial buildings. Only the Emperor could pass over it, carried on his chair of Imperial yellow."

Temple of Heaven. Peiping

Harry also bought a framed picture of the Temple for $1 which is shown below that now hangs on my bedroom wall in New Hampshire.

Lastly in Peiping, they visited the famous walled Forbidden City, the enormous palace compound that was the home of the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties located in the center of the city near Tianmen Square. They saw the ancient palaces and buildings used by the Emperors in ancient times and witnessed amazing works of art carved in jade. Harry commented on the need for the "labor of millions living in animal poverty to create all this."



Location of the Forbidden City in the historic center of Beijing (formerly Peiping & Peking)

Harry and Ella stayed in Peiping until May 10th, sightseeing, shopping and Harry visited many schools and colleges and was invited to various talks and meetings including a Rotary club and church. He commented that the Chinese "like to talk to us and to tell us about their country and to hear what we think they should do." Harry was in his glory, as the great American Economics scholar there to help them move forward. He said "they liked me very much" as he spent time with them providing his thoughts on how they could make educational and economic progress.

Though they didn't receive it until much later, on May 8th, ten-year old Nona wrote her parents a short letter, the only one that I have found. It showed she was very interested in trip and their letters as she was sharing them with her school class back in Middlebury.

[Letter from Nona]

May 8th

My Dear Dad and Mom,

Will you send me some things from China cause we are going to study it and India. I am going to take that letter to school so the teacher can read it to the children.

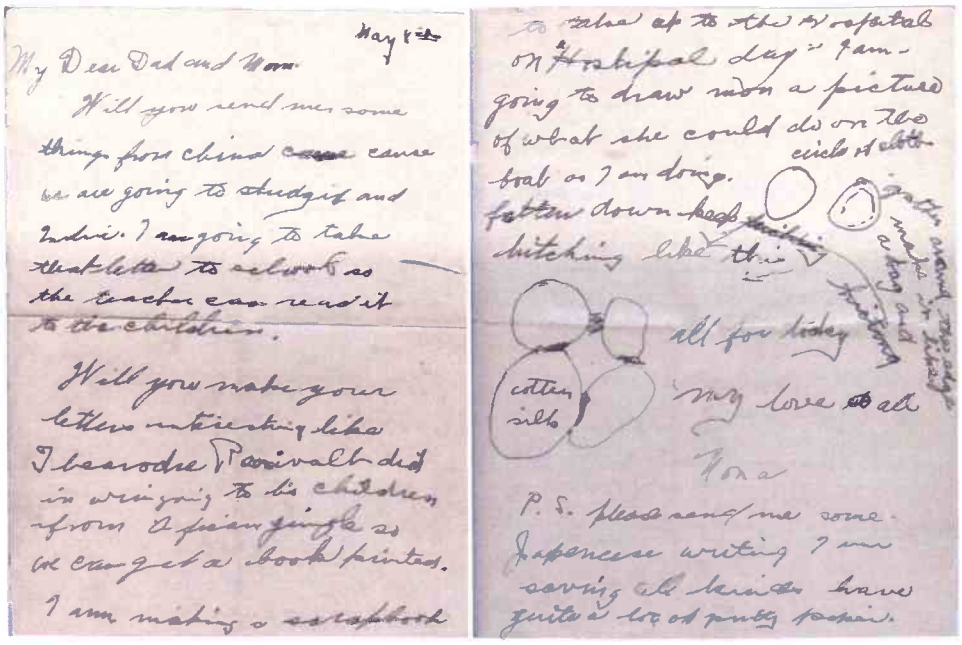
Will you make your letters interesting like Theodore Roosevelt did in writing to his children from African jungle so we can get a book printed?

I am making a scrap book to take up to the Hospital on "Hospital Day". I am going to draw Mom a picture of what she could do on the boat as I am doing. **[See below in the letter her drawing of sewing cloth pieces together.]**

My love to all.

Nona

P.S. Please send me some Japanese writing. I am saving all kinds. Have quite a lot on pretty paper.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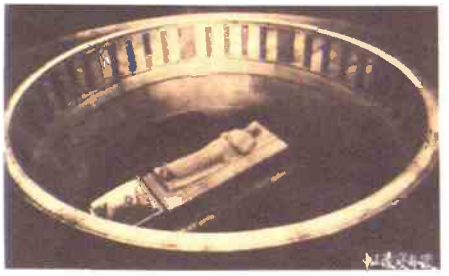
On the 10th they traveled south, probably by train, to Nanking, the new capital of the republic of China. The Republic was only 10 years old then, having been formed in 1924 when they "put out the Emperor". For some reason there letters don't cover their stay in Nanking, but there are five postcards saved from Sun Yat-Sen's Tomb there, two shown below. There may be a missing letter, since I have none between May 4th and May 25th.



Postcards saved of Doctor Sun Yat-Sen's Tomb in Nanking

Sun Yat-Sen was a Chinese revolutionary and political leader. He is frequently referred to as the Father of the Nation, sort of like the Chinese George Washington. Sun played an instrumental role in overthrowing the Qing Dynasty in October 1911, the last imperial dynasty of China. He was the first president when the Republic of China was founded in 1912. He died of liver cancer in 1925.

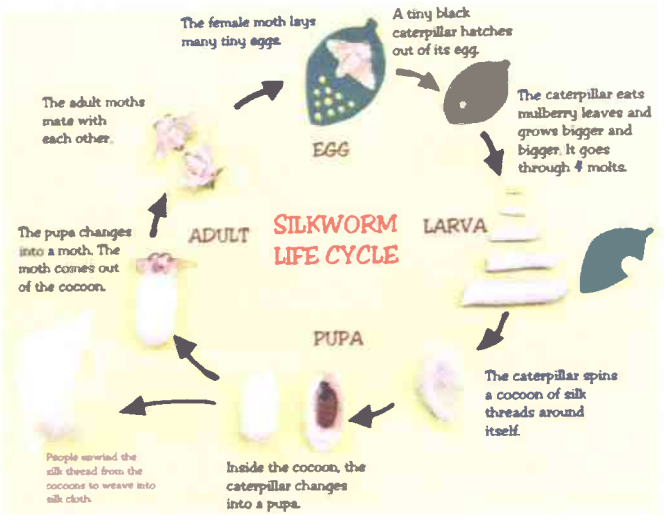
On May 18th, they arrived in Hong Kong, most likely by their steamship from Shanghai, a short trip of 776 nautical miles that would have taken about 1 ½ to 2 days at most. From there they took a trip 75 miles northwest to Canton, China (now called Guangzhou), known as "the breeding ground of many Chinese revolutions", according to Harry.

Port of Hong Kong on the South China Sea also showing Guangzhou (a.k.a. Canton) just north of it.

They found the city of Canton to be cleaner and with better buildings than those in the other northern Chinese cities they had seen. However, it was very hot and humid with many vendors screaming for their dollar. They visited Lingnan University, an American missionary school four miles north of Canton by boat. There, they visited with Professor and Mrs. Brownell, transplanted Vermonters and friends of Harry's fellow professor, L. R. Perkins.

At the university, they were shown silk worm cultivation and Harry described how silk was created in detail in his letter. Once the silkworms eat plenty of mulberry leaves, they begin to spin it into silk by disgorging the liquid substance that magically turns into fine silk strands. Harry said that a good worm could spin 1,000 meters of silk (actually I found they can now spin up to 1500 meters). The Chinese then weave the strands with machines into the beautiful silk kimonos and other garments they wear. A young university student then presented Harry with two skeins of raw silk. When Ella asked "Why two?" Harry told her "Why you know everything in China goes in pairs." See this link for more on silkworm cultivation: http://www.suekayton.com/Silkworms/pictures.htm

Silkworm


The female moth lays many tiny eggs.
A tiny black caterpillar hatches out of its egg.
The adult moths mate with each other.
EGG
The caterpillar eats mulberry leaves and grows bigger and bigger. It goes through 4 molts.
The pupa changes into a moth. The moth comes out of the cocoon.
ADULT
SILKWORM LIFE CYCLE
LARVA
PUPA
The caterpillar spins a cocoon of silk threads around itself.
People unwind the silk thread from the cocoons to weave into silk cloth.
Inside the cocoon, the caterpillar changes into a pupa.

Silk cultivation began in ancient China, as early as 6,000 BC.

Their stay in Hong Kong is only briefly described in Harry's letter of May 25th, as they left it for Manila. Apparently, they stayed "in luxury" there and loved the city as it was "built and laid out on Western lines." They found everything to be comparatively cheap there, including the hotel and taxis. Huge foreign ships docked in the bustling harbor amongst Chinese sampans, junks and house-boats.

Hong Kong, which means the "Fragrant Harbor" in Cantonese, became a British Colony in the mid 1800's and remained a crown colony or dependent territory up until 1997 when it finally was transferred to China as a separate administrative region. Today 7 million people live there in only 426 square miles, one of the most densely populated areas in the world.

As said above, they departed from Hong Kong on Friday, May 25th, now on board the Dollar Line steamship the President Harrison, enroute to Manila in the Philippines. It was the 118th day since they left home, so they were now past the halfway point of their round the world trip. They had stayed in China and Hong Kong for almost 40 days, but enjoyed every minute there.

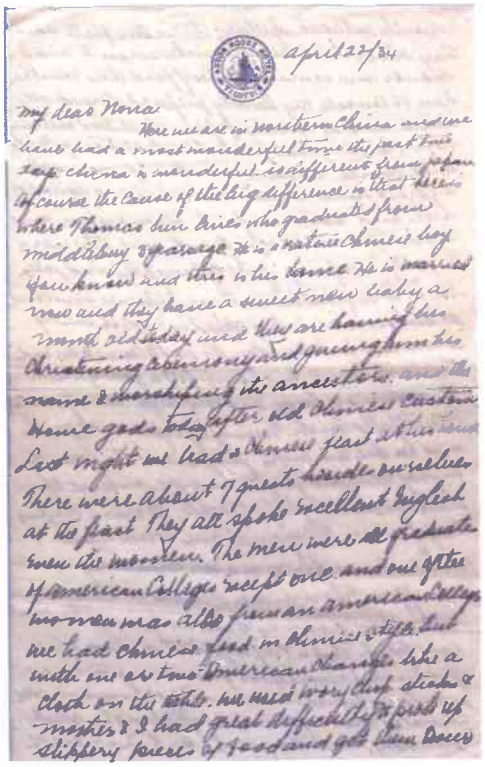
The President Harrison was the third steamship they had traveled on, after the S.S. McKinley and the President Hoover. The President Harrison was later utilized in W.W. II to evacuate U.S. military elements from China, but was captured by the Japanese who then used it in the war. It was tragically sunk by a U.S. submarine on September 12th 1944 off Formosa while carrying 750 Allied P.O.W.'s . For an account of that sinking see http://www.maritime.org/patrol3.htm (See more details on this ship at the end of this chapter.)

The President Harrison

[Letter 19 from Harry] April22/34

My dear Nona,

Here we are in northern China and we have had a most wonderful time the past two days. China is wonderful, so different from Japan. Of course, the big difference is that here is where Thomas Sun lives, who graduated from Middlebury 3 years ago. He is a native Chinese boy you know and this is his home. He is married now and they have a sweet new baby, a month old today and they are having his christening ceremony and giving him his name + worshiping the ancestors and the Home gods today after old Chinese custom. Last night we had a Chinese feast at his house. There were about 7 guests besides ourselves at the feast. They all spoke excellent English even the women. The men were all graduates of American colleges, except one, and one of the women was also from an American college. We had Chinese food in Chinese style, but with one or two American changes, like a cloth on the table. We used ivory chop sticks + mother + I had great difficulty to pick up slippery pieces of food and get them to our



april22/34

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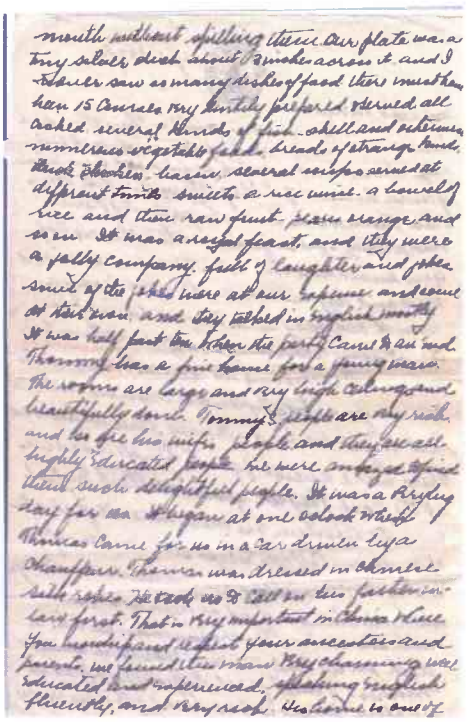
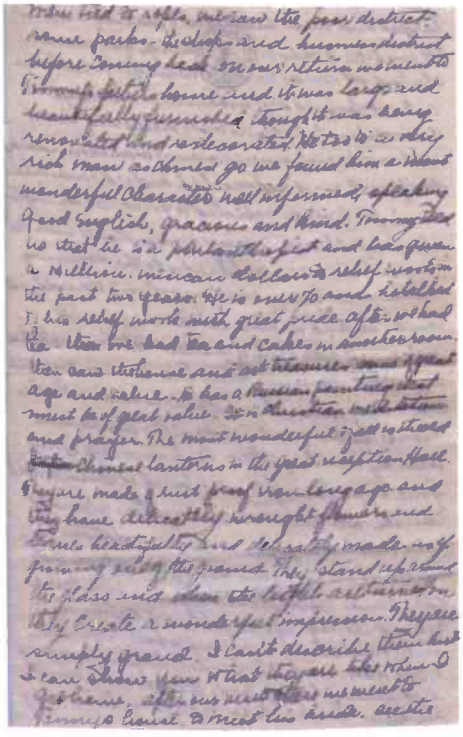
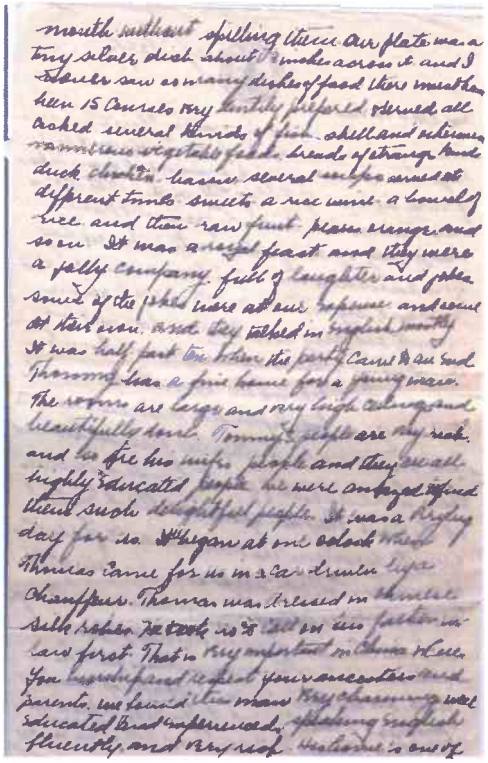
mouth without spilling them. Our plate was tiny silver dish about 3 inches across it, and I never saw so many dishes of food. There must have been 15 courses, very daintily prepared + served all cooked, several kinds of fish, shell and otherwise, numerous vegetable foods, breads of strange kinds, duck, chicken, bacon, several soups served at different times, sweets, a rice wine, a bowl of rice, and then raw fruit- pears, oranges, and so on. It was a royal feast, and they were jolly company, full of laughter and jokes. Some of the jokes were at our expense and some were on their own, and they talked in English mostly. It was half past ten when the party came to an end. Tommy has a fine house for a young man. The rooms are large and very high ceilings and beautifully done. Tommy's people are very rich, and so are his wife's people and they are all highly educated people. We were amazed to find them such delightful people. It was a very big day for us. It began at one o'clock when Thomas came for us in a car driven by a chauffeur. Thomas was dressed in Chinese silk robes. He took us to call on his father-in-law first. That is very important in China where you worship and respect your ancestors and parents. We found this man very charming, well-educated and experienced, speaking English fluently, and very rich. His home is one of



largest and most beautiful I was ever in in all my life. It was so large you would almost get lost in it. Beautiful furniture, art works, and very modern in all ways. We discussed world affairs more easily than I could with most rich Americans, I was tremendously surprised and astonished. Indeed I was taken back for I never expected to find such high class excellence. Many servants all over the house. We were ushered into the drawing room, and soon Mr. Wong, who is Mandarin, came in, and we were introduced and welcomed with a cup of Chinese tea. Then we talked and talked. Mr. Wong knew Pres. Hoover very well, and many Americans. Then he showed us his house with great pride. After this we were taken by two cars to a German cafe of very fine type for a splendid lunch of seven or eight courses. We had more conversation especially over American-Japanese-Chinese relations. They all dread what Japan is doing and intends to do. After lunch, Thomas took us for an auto drive around the city into the Chinese section., the water front which was unspeakably dirty and where men work like beasts of burden carrying and hauling heavy loads through dirty mud. We saw them hauling the boats on the canal by

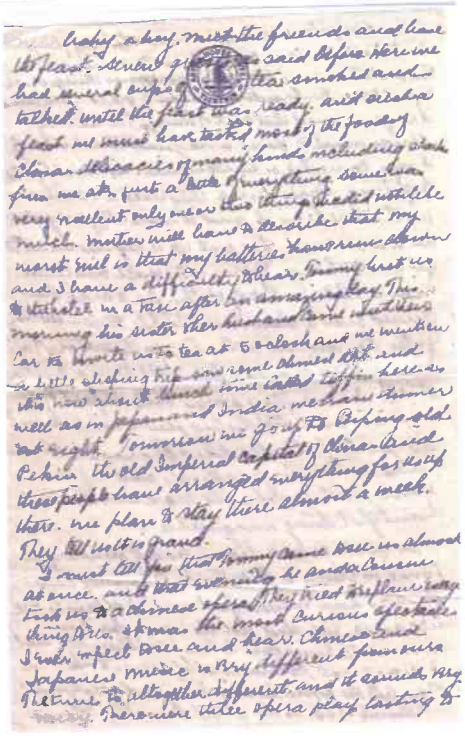


men tied to ropes. We saw the poor district, some parks, the shops, and business district before coming back. On our return, we went to Tommy's father's house and it was large and beautifully furnished though it was being renovated and redecorated. He too is a very rich man as Chinese go. We found him a most wonderful character, well-informed, speaking good English, gracious and kind. Tommy told us that he is a philanthropist and has given a million Mexican dollars **[see above about the use of Mexican Eagle dollars in China]** to relief work in the past two years. He is over 70 and he talked of his relief work with great pride. After we had tea- then we had tea and cakes in another room, then saw the house and art treasures, some of great age and value. **[I wonder what happened to their big houses and art-work when the Japanese took over in 1937.]** He has a Russian painting that must be of great value. It is Christian meditation and prayer. The most wonderful of all is the old Chinese lanterns in the great reception hall. They are made of rust-proof iron long ago and they have delicately wrought flowers and leaves beautifully and delicately made as if growing out of the ground. They stand up around the glass and when the lights are turned on they create a wonderful impression. I can't describe them, but I can show you what they are like when I get home. After our visit there we went to Tommy's house to meet his bride, see the



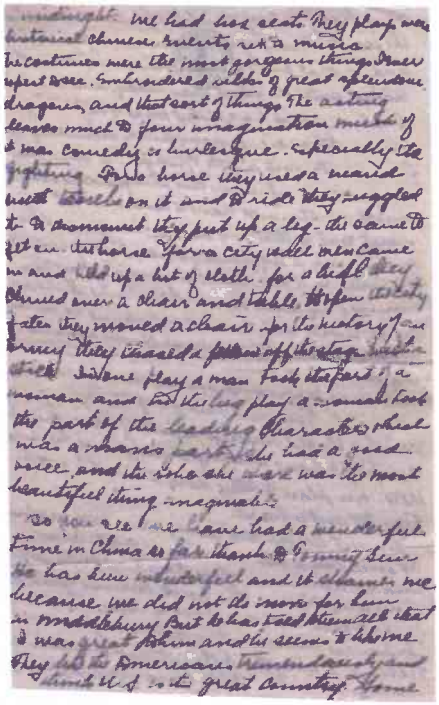
new baby, a boy, meet the friends and have the feast. Seven guests as I said before. Here we had several cups of tea, smoked and talked until the feast was ready. And such a feast. We must have tasted most of the foods of China, delicacies of many kinds, including shark's fins. We ate just a little of everything. Some was very excellent, one or two things we did not like much. Mother will have to describe that. My worst evil is that my batteries have run down and I have difficulty to hear. Tommy brought us to the hotel in a taxi after an amazing day. This morning his sister + her husband came with their car to invite us to tea at 5 o'clock and we went on a little shopping trip, saw some Chinese art and it is now about lunch time. Called tiffin here as well as in Japan and India. We have dinner at eight. Tomorrow [April 23rd] we go to Peiping (old Pekin), the old Imperial capital of China and these people have arranged everything for us up there. We plan to stay there almost a week. They tell us it is grand.

I must tell you that Tommy came to see us almost at once, and that evening he and a cousin took us to a Chinese opera. They tried to explain everything to us. It was the most curious spectacle I ever expect to see and hear. Chinese and Japanese music is very different from ours. The time is altogether different and it sounds very noisy. There were three opera plays lasting to



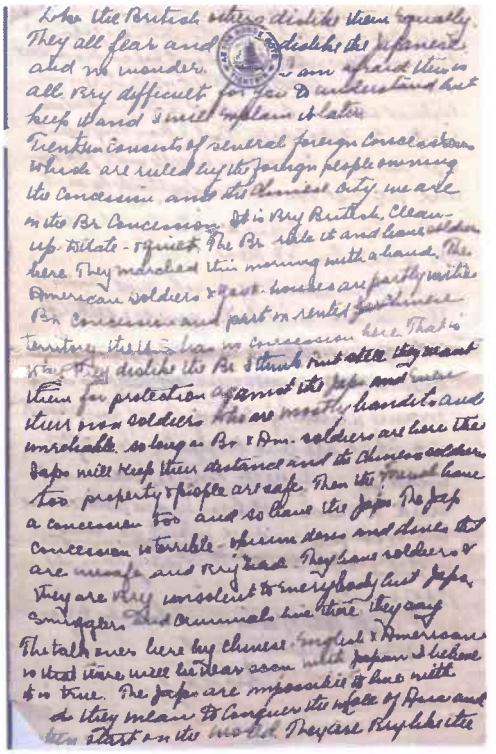
midnight. We had box seats. The plays were historical Chinese events set to music. The costumes were the most gorgeous things I ever expect to see. Embroidered silks of great splendor, dragons, and that sort of things. The acting leaves much to your imagination. Much of it was comedy or burlesque, especially the fighting. For a horse, they used a board with tassels on it and to ride they wiggled it, to dismount they put up a leg- the same to get on the horse. For a city wall, men came in and held up a bit of cloth. For a hill they climbed over a chair and table. To open the city gates they moved a chair. For the victory of an army, they chased a fellow off the stage. In one play, a man took the part of a woman and in the big play a woman took the part of a leading character which was a man's part. She had a good voice and the robe she wore was the most beautiful thing imaginable.

So you see we have had a wonderful time in China so far thanks to Tommy Sun. He has been wonderful and it shames me because we did not do more for him in Middlebury. But he has told them all that I was great to him and he seems to like me. They like Americans tremendously and thin U.S. is the great country. Some



Like the British, others dislike them equally. They all fear and dislike the Japanese, and no wonder. I am afraid this is all very difficult for you to understand but keep it and I will explain it later.

Tientsin consists of several foreign concessions which are ruled by the foreign people owning the concession, and the Chinese city. We are in the Br Concession. It is very British, clean, up-to-date + quiet. The British rule it and have soldiers here. They marched this morning with a band. The American soldiers + gov't. houses are partly in the Br. Concession and part in rented Chinese territory. The U.S. has no concession here. That is why they dislike Br. I think. But still they want them for protection against the Japs, and even their own soldiers who are mostly bandits and unreliable. So long as Br. Am. soldiers are here the Japs will keep their distance and the Chinese soldiers too. Property + people are safe. Then the French have a concession too, and so have the Japs. The Jap concession is terrible- opium dens and dives that are unsafe and very bad. They have soldiers + they are very insolent to everybody but Japs. Smugglers and criminals live there they say. The talk over here by Chinese, English + Americans is that there will be war soon with Japan. I believe it is true. The Japs are impossible to live with and they mean to conquer the whole of Asia then start on the world. They are very like the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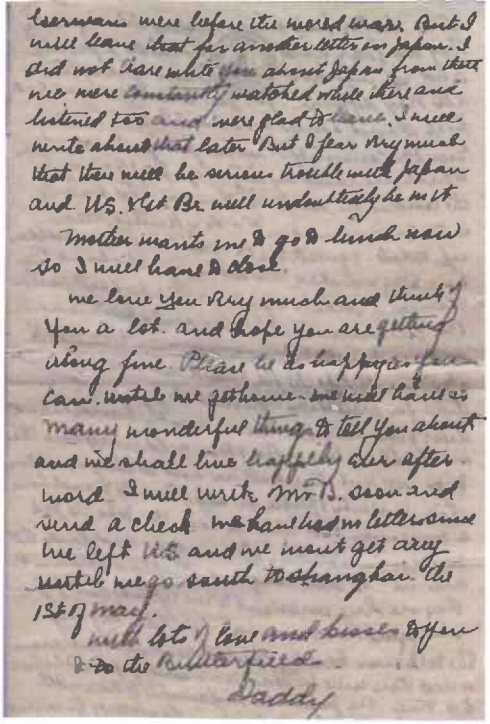
Germans were before the world war. But I will leave that for another letter on Japan. I did not dare write you about Japan from there. We were constantly watched while there and listened to and were glad to leave. I will write about that later. But I fear very much that there will be serious trouble with Japan and U.S. + Gr. Br. will undoubtedly in it.

Mother wants me to go to lunch now so I will have to close.

We love you very much and think of you a lot, and hope you are getting along fine. Please be as happy as you can until we get home. We will have so many wonderful things to tell you about and we shall live happily ever afterward. I will write Mr. B. soon and send a check. We had no letter since we left U.S. and we won't get any until we go south to Shanghai the 1st of May.

With lots of love and kisses to you + to the Butterfields.

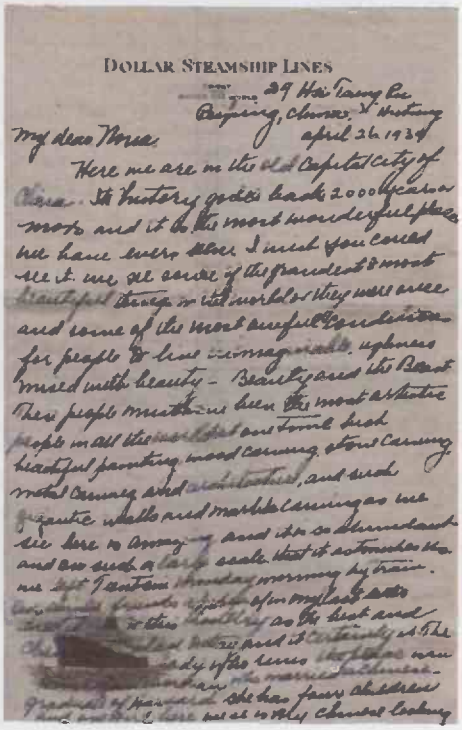
Daddy



[Letter 20 from Harry] 29 His Tsung Pu, Hutung, Peiping, China April 26, 1934

My dear Nona,

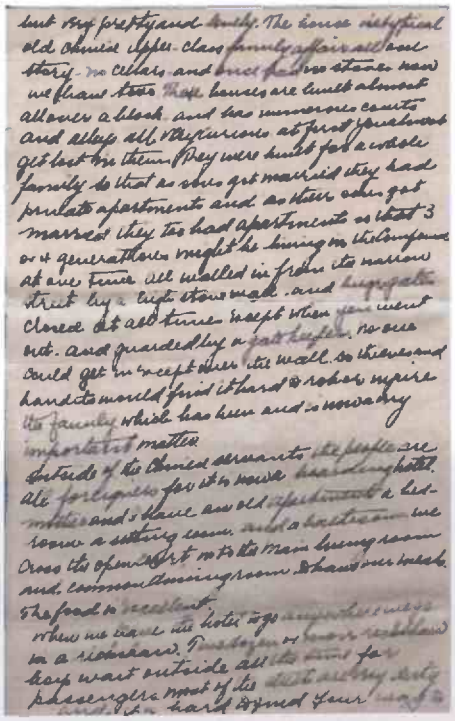
Here we are in the old capital city of China. It's history goes back 2,000 years or more and it is the most wonderful place we have ever seen. I wish you could see it. We see some of the grandest + most beautiful things in the world, or they were once, and some of the most awful conditions for people to live in imaginable. Ugliness mixed with beauty- Beauty and the Beast. These people must have been the most artistic people in all the world at one time. Such beautiful painting, wood carving, stone carving, metal carving, and architecture, and such gigantic walls and marble carving as we see here is amazing, and it is abundant, and on such a large scale, it astonishes us. We left Tientsin Monday morning by train. Our Chinese friends spoken of in my last letter directed us to this hostelry as the best and cheapest place to stay and it certainly is. The lady who runs the place is an American woman who married a Chinese graduate of Harvard. She has four children and one girl here who is very Chinese looking



But very pretty and lovely. The house is a typical old Chinese upper-class family affair, all one story- no cellars – and once had no stoves. Now we have two. These houses are built almost over a block, and has numerous courts and alleys, all very curious. At first you almost get lost in them. They were built for a whole family, so hat as sons got married they had private apartments, and as their sons got married, so that 3 or 4 generations might be living in the compound at one time. All walled in from the narrow street by a high stone wall, and huge gates closed at all times except when you went out, and guarded by a gate-keeper. No one could get in except over the wall, so thieves and bandits would find it hard to rob or injure the family, which has been and is now a very important matter.

Outside of the Chinese servants, the people are all foreigners for it is now a boarding hotel. Mother and I have an old apartment, a bedroom, a sitting room, and a bathroom. We cross the open court in to the main living room and common dining room to have our meals. The food is excellent.

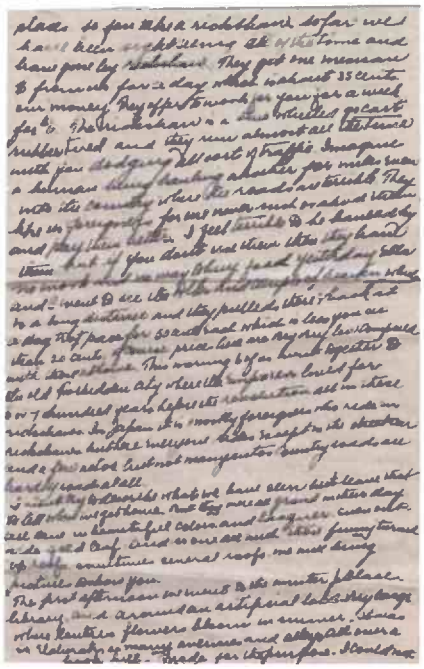
When we leave the hotel to go anywhere we go in a rickshaw. Two dozen boys wait outside all the time for passengers. Most of the streets are very dirty and it is hard to find your way to



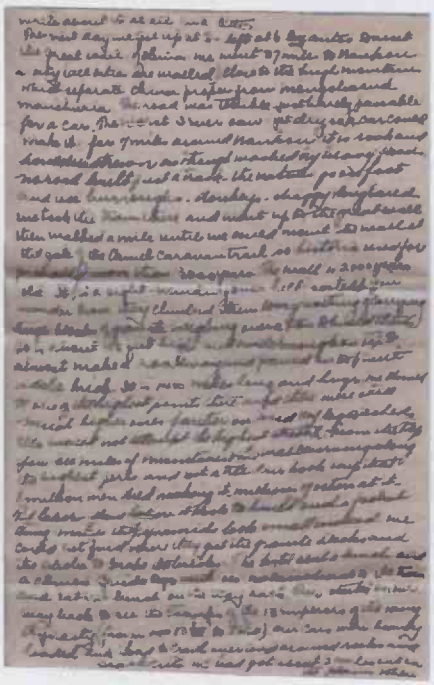
places. So you take a rickshaw. So far, we have been sightseeing all of the time and have gone by rickshaw. They get one Mexican dollar from us for a day, which is about 35 cents our money. They offer to work for you for a week for $6. The rickshaw is a two-wheeled go cart, rubber-tired and they run almost all the time with you dodging all sorts of traffic. Imagine a human being hauling another for miles, even into the country where the roads are terrible. They like us foreigners for we never rush or abuse them and pay them better. I feel terrible to be hauled by them, but if you don't they have no work and no way to buy food. Yesterday, Ella and I went to see Alter and Temple of Heaven which is a long distance and they pulled there + back at a dog trot pace for 50 cents each, which is less you see than 20 cents. Of course prices here are very low compared with those at home. This morning, 6 of us went together to the old Forbidden City where the Emperor lived for 6 or 7 hundred years before the revolution, all in these rickshaws. In Japan, it is mostly foreigners who ride in rickshaws, bur here everyone rides except in the street car and a few autos, but not many autos. Country roads are hardly roads at all.

I want to try to describe what we have seen, but leave that to tell you when we get home. But they were all grand in their day. All done in beautiful colors and lacquer, even outside, gold-leaf and so on with those funny turned-up roofs, sometimes several roofs. We will bring pictures to show you.

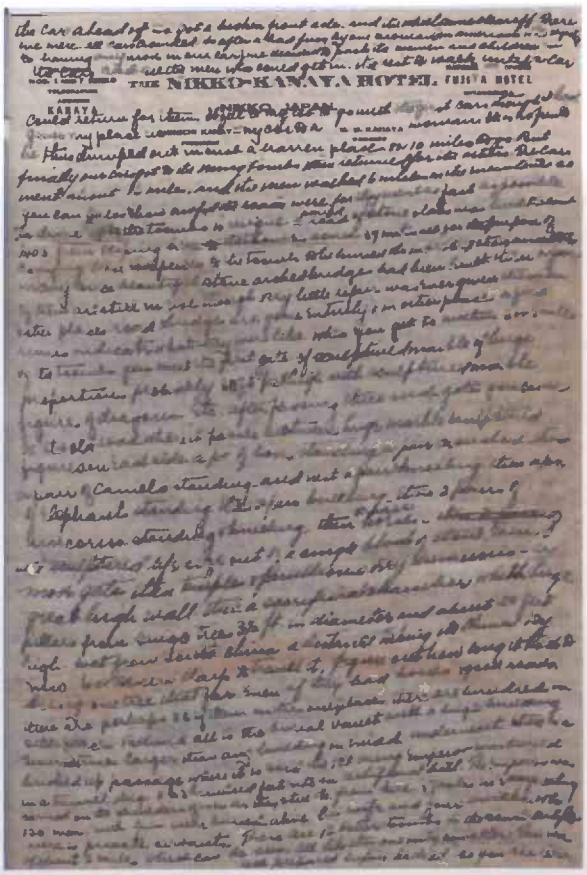
The first afternoon we went to the Winter Palace, library and around an artificial lake, very large, where lotus flowers bloom in summer. It was so elaborate, so many avenues and alleys all over a high hill made for the purpose. I could not



write about it all in a letter. The next day we got up at 5- left at 6- by autos to visit the Great Wall of China. We went 37 miles to Nankou, a city (all cities are walled) close to the high mountains which separate China proper from Mongolia and Manchuria. The road was terrible, just barely passable for a car. The worst I ever saw, yet dry so a car could make it. For 7 miles around Nankou it is rock and boulder strewn as though washed by heavy floods, no road built just a track. The natives go on fast and use burros – donkeys, shaggy + long-haired. . We took the train there and went up to the Great Wall, then walked a mile until we could mount the wall at the gate of the camel caravan trail, so historic, used for probably 3,000 years. The wall is 2,000 years old. It is a sight – winding over hills so steep you wonder how they climbed them to say nothing of carving huge blocks of granite weighing over a ton to build them. It is about 18 feet high and wide enough on top to almost make a roadway and paved on top with adobe brick. It is 1,400 miles long and huge. We climbed to one of the highest points there and there were still higher ones farther on, and my legs ached. Ella would not attempt the highest stretch. From the top you see miles of mountains + the wall curving along the highest parts, and not a tree. Our book says that 1 million men died making it, millions of others at it. The labor- slave labor – it took to build such a foolish thing makes the pyramids look small indeed. We could not find where they got the granite blocks and the adobe to make the bricks. The hotel sent a lunch and a Chinese guide to go with us. We came back to the train and eat our lunch on the way back. Then started on our way back to see the tombs of the 13 Emperors of the Ming Dynasty 9from 1385 to 1660?). Our cars were heavily loaded and had to crawl over and around rocks and washouts. We had got about 2 miles out in the plains when



the car ahead of us got a broken front axle and the wheel came clear off. There we were, all cars crowded. After a bad fuss by one woman (an American who objected to having any more in our car) we decided to pack the women and children in the cars, and all the men who could get in, the rest to walk until a car could return for them. It fell to my lot to go with the first cars though I had given my place in my car to a woman. It is no fun to be thus dumped out in such a barren place- 8 to 10 miles to go. But finally our cars got to the Ming Tombs then returned for the others. The car went about 16 miles and the men walked 6 miles in the meantime, so you can guess how awful the roads were, for they went as fast as possible. The drive up to the tombs is unique. A paved road of stone slabs was built about 1403 from Peiping here to the tombs some 37 miles all for the purpose of carrying these Emperors to the tombs to be buried + to worship their ancestors. Many once beautiful stone arched bridges had been built- three or four of them are still in use though very little repair was ever given them. In other places, roads + bridges are gone entirely + in other places a few ruins indicate what they were like. When you get to within 2 or 3 miles of the tombs you meet the first gate of sculptured marble of huge proportions probably 30 feet high with sculptured marble figures of dragons etc. After passing through such gates you come to the old road where it passes between huge marble sculptured figures on each side- a pair of lions standing, a pair crouched, then a pair of camels standing, and next a pair kneeling, then a pair of elephants standing, then a pair kneeling, then 2 pairs of unicorns standing + kneeling, then 2 pair of horses all sculptured life size out of a single block of stone. Then more gates then temples + pavilions very numerous – a great high wall then a sacrificial chamber with huge pillars from single trees 3 ½ feet in diameter and about 50 feet high brought from south China, a distance taking the Chinese by now 6 or seven days to travel it. Figure out how long it took to bring one tree that far. Even if they had horses + good roads there are perhaps 25 of them in this one place, there are hundreds in other places. Behind all is the burial vault with a huge building several times larger than any building in Midd. Underneath there is a bricked-up passage where it is said the 1st Ming Emperor was buried in a tunnel dug 2 to 3 hundred feet into an artificial hill. The Emperor was carried on the shoulders of men as they still do, from here 37 miles in 3 days taking 120 men. With him buried alive his wife and four eunuchs who were his private servants. There are 12 other tombs in the semi-circle of about 2 miles which can be seen, all like this one only smaller. This was all prepared before he died so you can see these

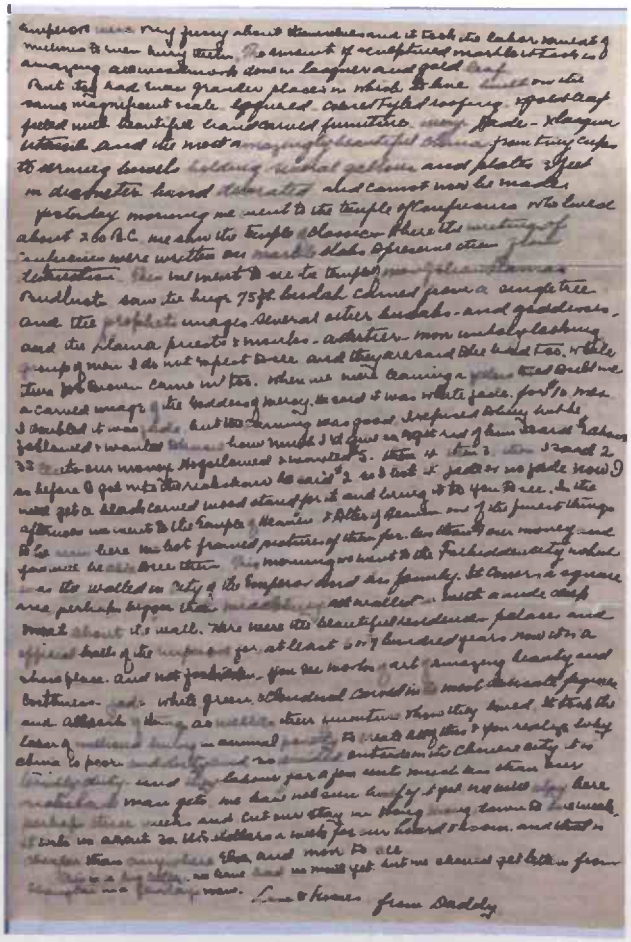


Emperors were very fussy about themselves and it took labor + sweat of millions to even bury them. The amount of sculptured marble it took is amazing. All woodwork done in lacquer and gold leaf. But they had even grander places in which to live built on the same magnificent scale, lacquered, colored tile roofing + gold leaf filled with beautiful hand-carved furniture, ivory, jade, + lacquer utensils and the most amazingly beautiful china from tiny cups to serving bowls holding several gallons and plates 3 feet in diameter, hand-decorated, and cannot now be made. Yesterday

morning we went to the Temple of Confucious who lived about 200 B.C. we saw the Temple of Classics where the writings of Confucious were written on marble slabs to preserve them from destruction. Then we went to see the Temple of Mongolian Llama Buddhists. Saw the huge 75 foot Buddha carved from a single tree and the prophet's images, several other Buddhas and goddesses and the Llama priests + monks, a dirtier, more unholy looking group of men I do not expect to see. And they are said to be bad too. While there, Joe Brown came in too. When we were leaving, a fellow tried to sell me a carved image of the Goddess of Mercy. He said it was white jade for $10 Mexican. I doubted it was jade, but the carving was good. I refused to buy but he followed + wanted to know how much I'd give so to get rid of him I said $1, about 35 cents our money. He followed and wanted $5, then $4 then $3, then I said $2, so before I got in the rickshaw he said $2, so I bought it, jade or no jade. Now I will get a black carved wood stand for it, and bring it to you to see. In the afternoon we went to the Temple of Heaven + Alter of Heaven, one of the finest things to be seen here. We bought framed pictures of them for less than $1 our money and you will be able to see them. This morning we went to the Forbidden City which was the walled-in city of the Emperor and his family. It covers a square area perhaps bigger than Middlebury, all walled-in with a wide deep moat about the wall. Here were the beautiful residences, palaces and official halls of the Emperors for at least 6 or 7 hundred years. Now it is a show place and not forbidden. You see works of art of amazing beauty and costliness, jade white, green + clouded, carved in the most delicate figures and all sorts of things as well as their furniture + how they lived. It took the labor of millions, living in animal poverty to create all of this + you realize why China is poor and dirty and so divided. Outside in the Chinese city, it is terribly dirty and they labor for a few cents much less than our rickshaw man gets. We have not seen half of it yet. We will stay here perhaps three weeks and cut our stay in Hong Kong down to one week . It costs us about 30 U.S. dollars a week for our board + room and that is cheaper than anywhere else, and more to see.

This is a huge letter. We have had no mail yet, but we should get letters from Shanghai in a few days now.

Love + kisses from Daddy



[Letter 21 from Harry] 29 His Tsung Pu, Hutung, Peiping, China May 4/34

My dear sweetheart Nona,

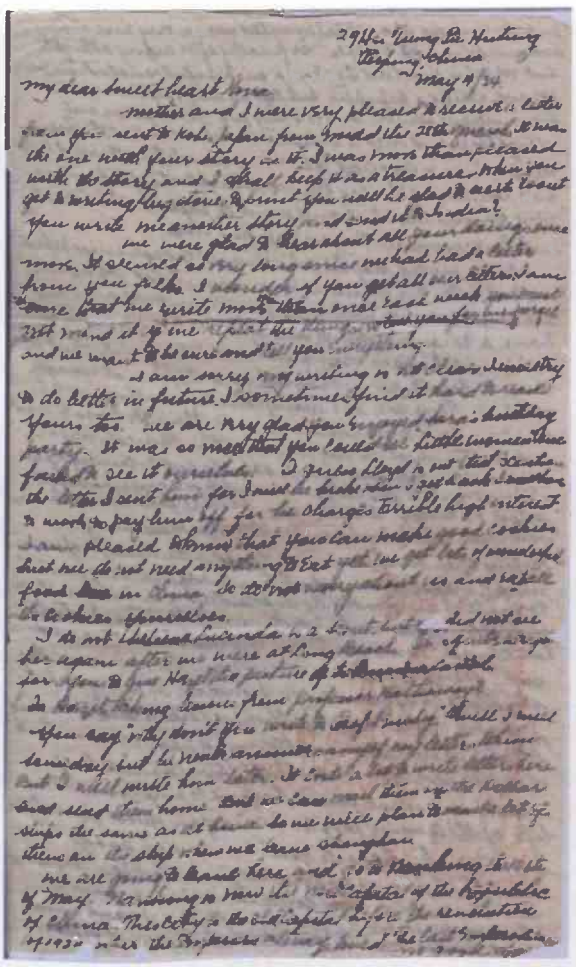
Mother and I were very pleased to receive a letter from you sent to Kobe, Japan from Midd. the 28th of March. It was the one with your story in it. I was more than pleased with the story and shall keep it as a treasure. When you get to writing big stories to print you will be glad to see it. Won't you write me another story and send it to India?

We were glad to hear about your doings once more. It seemed so very long since we had a letter from you folks. I wonder if you get all our letters. I am sure that we write more often than once each week. You must not mind it if we repeat the things we tell you for we forget and we want to be sure to tell you everything.

I am sorry my writing is not clear. I will try to do better in the future. I sometimes find it hard to read yours too. We are very glad you enjoyed Sara's birthday party. It was so nice that you could see "Little Women". We failed to see it ourselves. I guess Lloyd is out that 3 cents on the letter I sent him for I will be broke when I get back. I will have to work to pay him off for he charges terrible high interest. I am pleased to know that you can make good cookies, but we do not need anything to eat yet. We get lots of wonderful food here in China so do not worry about us, and eat all the cookies yourselves.

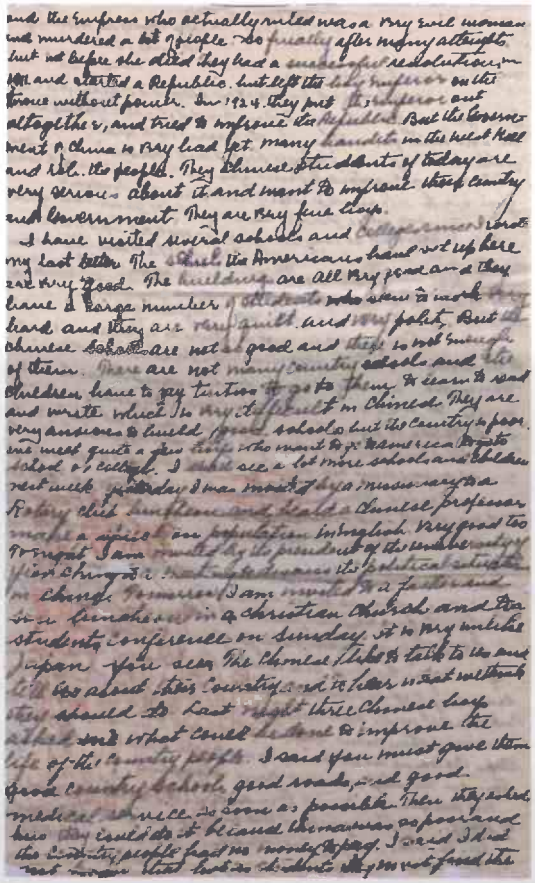
I do not believe Lucinda is a scout but we did not see her again after we were at Long Beach. It is quite alright for you to give Hazel the picture of the Panama Canal. Is Hazel taking lessons from Professor Hathaway? You say "Why don't you write to Prof. Busby?" well, I will some day, but he never answers any of my letters to him. But, I will write him later. It costs a lot to write letters here and send them home. But we can mail them on the Dollar ships the same as at home. So we will plan to mail a lot of them on the ship when we leave Shanghai.

We are going to leave here and go to Nanking the 10th of May. Nanking is now the new capital of the Republic of China. This city is the old capital before the revolution of 1924 where the Emperors always lived. The last Emperor was no good at all



and the Empress who actually ruled was a very evil woman and murdered a lot of people. So finally after many attempts, but not before she died, they had a successful revolution, in 1911, and started the Republic, but left the boy Emperor on the throne without power. In 1924, they put the Emperor out altogether, and tried to improve the Republic. But the government of China is very bad yet. Many bandits in the west kill and rob the people. The Chinese students today are very serious about it and want to improve their country and government. They are fine boys.

I have visited several schools and colleges since I wrote my last letter. The schools the Americans have set up here are very good and they have a large number of students who seem to work very hard, and they are quiet and very polite. But the Chinese schools are not so good and there is not enough of them. There are not many country schools and the children have to pay tuition to go to them to learn to read and write which is very difficult in Chinese. They are very anxious to build good schools but the country is poor. We meet quite a few boys who want to go to America to go to school or college. I shall see a lot more schools and children next week. Yesterday I was invited by a missionary to a Rotary Club luncheon and heard a Chinese professor make a speech on population in English. Very good, too. Tonight I am invited by the president of the University of Yenching to a meeting to discuss the political situation in China. Tomorrow, I am invited to a father and son luncheon in a Christian church and the student's conference on Sunday. It is very unlike Japan you see. The Chinese like to talk to us and tell us about their country and to hear what we think they should do. Last night, three Chinese boys asked me what could be done to improve the life of country people. I said you must give them good country schools, good roads and good medical service as soon as possible. Then they asked how they could do it because China was so poor and the country people had no money to pay. I said I did not know that, but as students they must find the

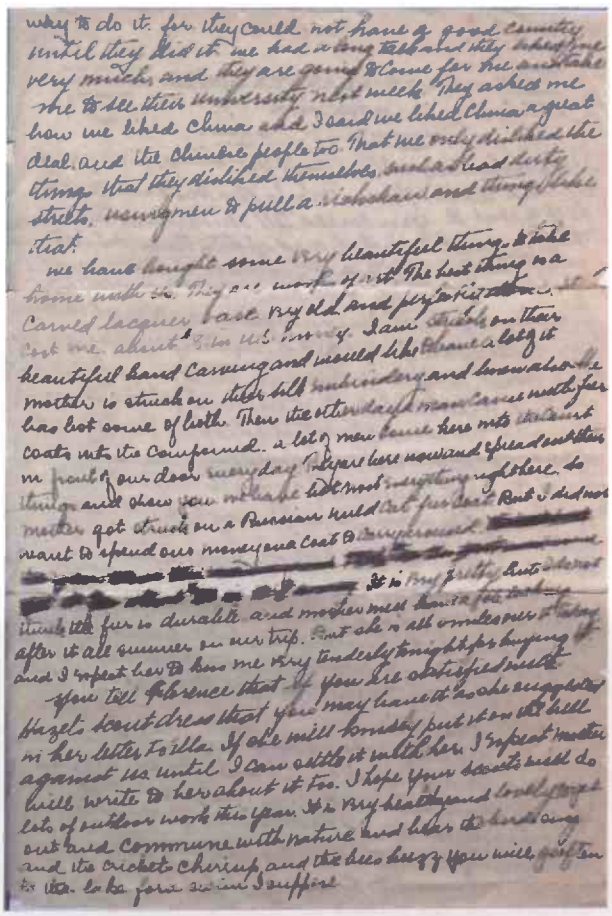


way to do it for they could not have a good country until they did it. We had a long talk and they liked me very much, and they are going to come for me and take me to see their university next week. They asked me how we liked China and I said we liked China a great deal and the Chinese people too, that we only disliked the things they disliked themselves, such as bad dirty streets, using men to pull a rickshaw and things like that.

We have bought some very beautiful things to take home with us. They are works of art. The best thing is a carved lacquer vase, very old and perfectly done. It cost me $8 in U.S. money. I am struck on their beautiful hand carving and would like to have a lot of it. Mother is struck on their silk embroidery and linen also. She has bought some of both. Then the other day a man came with fur coats into the compound. A lot of men come here into the court every day. They are here now and spread out their things to show you. We have bought most everything right here. So Mother got stuck on a Russian wild cat fur coat. But I did not want to spend our money on a coat to carry around. It is very pretty, but I do not think the fur is

durable and Mother will have a job looking after it all summer on our trip. But she is all smiles over it today and I expect her to kiss me very tenderly tonight for buying it.

You tell Florence that if you are satisfied with Hazel's Scout dress that you may have it as she suggested in her letter to Ella. If she will kindly put it on the bill against us until I can settle it with her. I expect Mother will write her about it too. I hope your Scouts will do lots of outdoor work this year. It is very healthy and lovely to get out and commune with nature and hear the birds sing and the crickets chirrup and the bees buzz. You will go often to the lake for a swim I suppose.

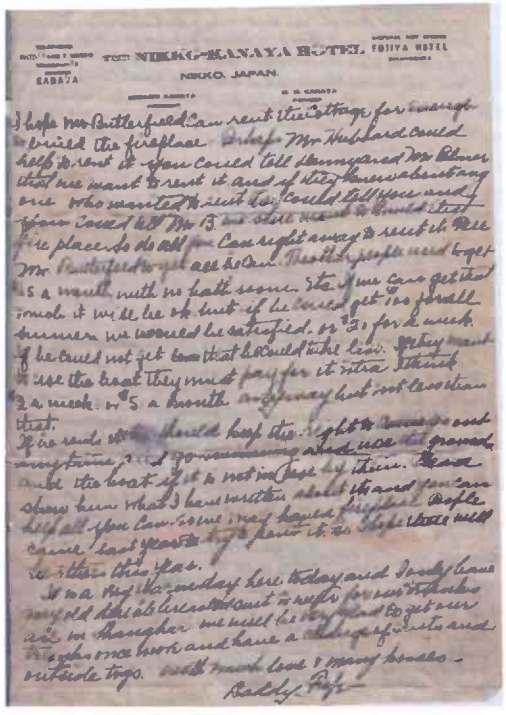


I hope Mr. Butterfield can rent the cottage for enough to build the fireplace. Perhaps Mr. Hubbard could help rent it. You could tell Denny and Mr. Palmer that we want to rent it and if they knew about anyone who wanted to rent they could tell you and you could tell Mr. B. we sure want to build the fireplace. So do all you can right away to rent it. Tell Mr. Butterfield to get all he can. The other people used to get $65 a month with no bathroom etc. If we can get that much, it will be ok, but if he could get $100 for all summer, we would be satisfied, or $20 for a week. If he could not get that he could take less. If they want to use the boat they must pay for it extra I think. $2 a week or $5 a month anyway but not less than that. If he rents it he should keep the right to go out anytime and go swimming and use the grounds and the boat if it is not in use by them. Please show him what I have written about it and you can help all you can so we may have a fireplace. People came last year to try to rent it. So I hope there will be others this year.

It is a very warm day here today and I only have my old double-breasted suit to wear for our trunks are in Shanghai. We will be very glad to get our trunks once more and have a change of suits and outside togs.

With much love + many kisses-

Daddy Fife

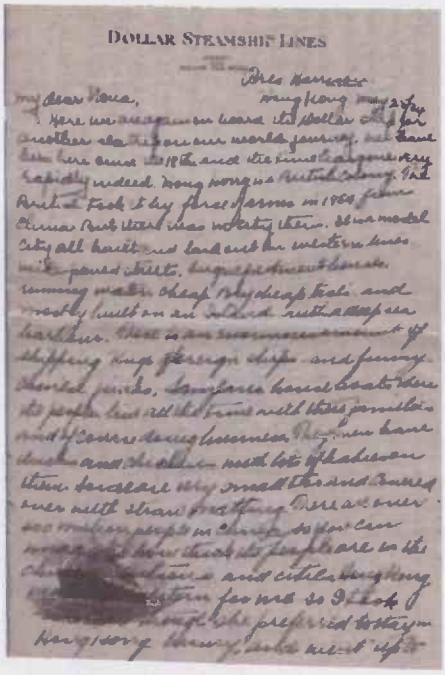

THE NIKKO-KANAYA HOTEL
FUJIYA HOTEL
KANAYA
NIKKO, JAPAN.

I hope Mr Butterfield can rent the cottage for a month
to build the fireplace. Perhaps Mr Hubbard could
help to rent it - you could tell them and
that we want to rent it and if they know about any
one who wanted to rent it we could tell you and
you could tell Mr B. - also we could tell that
the place is all we can right away to rent it. See
Mr Butterfield to get all he can. The little people need to get
a month with no heat soon. If we can get that
much it will be ok but if he could get no for all
summer we would be satisfied. or $30. for a week.
If he could not get so that he could take less. They must
use the heat they must pay for it extra. Extra
$2 a week. or $5 a month. a journey but not less than
that.
If he rents it he should keep the light on and
anytime I will go running and use the power.
make the heat if it is not in. Please
show him what I have written about it and you can
help all you can. Some of these days Daddy will
come back you to see it. Hope there will
be other than yes.
It is a fine day here today and Daddy has
very old Abraham Lincoln out to walk for me with him
and Mr Slaughter we will be ready to get over
the ocean work and have a change of air and
outside togs. With much love & many kisses -
Daddy Pop

[Letter 22 from Harry] Pres. Harrison, Hong Kong, May 25/34

My dear Nona,

Here we are again on board the Dollar ship for another sea trip on our world journey. We have been here since the 18th and the time has gone very rapidly indeed. Hong Kong is a British Colony. The British took it by force of arms in 1854 from China. But there was no city then. It is a model city all built and laid out on Western lines, wide paved streets, huge apartment houses, running water, cheap, very cheap taxis and mostly built on an Island with a deep sea harbor. There is an enormous amount of shipping, huge foreign ships and funny Chinese junks, sampans, houseboats where people live all the time with their families and of course doing business. They even have ducks and chickens with lots of babies on them. Some are very small too and covered with straw matting. There are over 400 million people in China, so you can imagine how thick the people are in the Chinese sections and cities. Hong Kong was too Western for me so I took Mother, though she preferred to stay in Hong Kong luxury, and went up to


DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

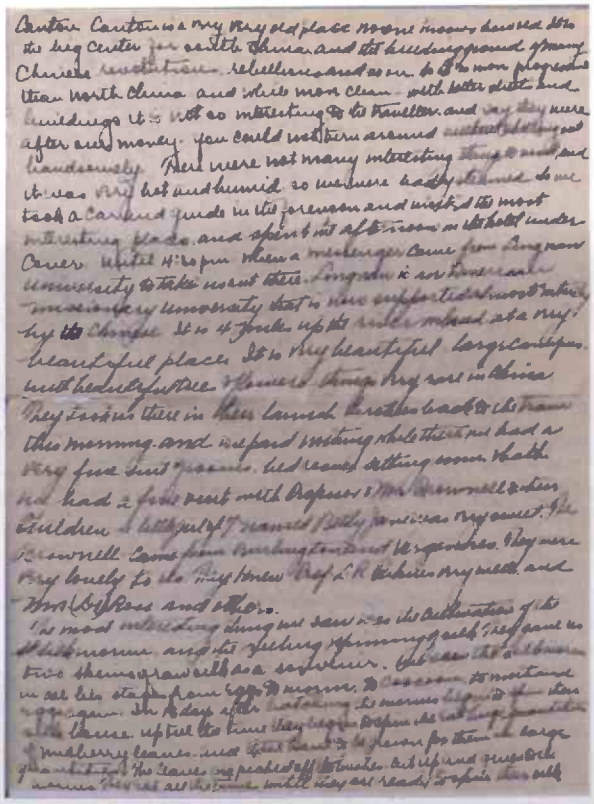
Pres Harrison
Hong Kong May 25/34

my dear Nona,

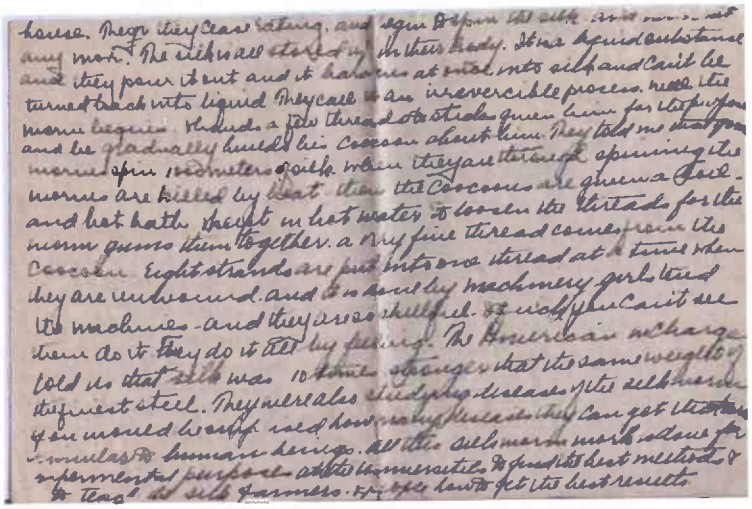
Here we are again on board the Dollar ship for another sea trip on our world journey. We have been here since the 18th and the time has gone very rapidly indeed. Hong Kong is a British Colony. The British took it by force of arms in 1854 from China. But there was no city then. It is a model city all built and laid out on Western lines, wide paved streets, huge apartment houses, running water, cheap, very cheap taxis and mostly built on an Island with a deep sea harbor. There is an enormous amount of shipping, huge foreign ships and funny Chinese junks, sampans, houseboats where people live all the time with their families and of course doing business. They even have ducks and chickens with lots of babies on them. Some are very small too and covered with straw matting. There are over 400 million people in China, so you can imagine how thick the people are in the Chinese sections and cities. Hong Kong was too Western for me so I took Mother, though she preferred to stay in Hong Kong luxury, and went up to

Canton. Canton is a very, very old place, no one knows how old. It is the big center for South China and the breeding ground of many Chinese revolutions, rebellions, and so on. So it is more progressive than North China and while more clean with better streets and buildings, it is not so interesting to the traveller, and say they were after our money. You could not turn around without shelling out handsomely. There were not many interesting things to visit, and it was very hot and humid, so we were badly steamed. So we took a car and guide in the forenoon and visited the most interesting places, and spent the afternoon in the hotel under cover until 4:30 pm when a messenger came from Lingnan University to take us out there. Lingnan is an American missionary university that is now supported almost entirely by the chinese. It is 4 miles up the river inland at a very beautiful place. It is very beautiful, large campus with beautiful trees + flowers, things very rare in China. They took us there in their launch + took us back to the train in the morning, and we paid nothing while there. We had a fine suite of rooms, bedroom, sitting room + bath. We had a fine visit with Professor + Mrs. Brownell + their children. A little girl of 7 named Betty Jane was very sweet. The Brownells came from Burlington and Vergennes. They were very lovely to us. They knew Prof. L. C. Perkins very well and Mrs. D. Ross and others.

The most interesting thing we saw was the cultivation of the silkworm and the reeling and spinning of silk. They gave us two skeins of raw silk as a souvenir. We saw the silkworm in all his stages from egs to worm to cocoon to moth and eggs again. In 18 days after hatching the worms begin to spin their silk house. Up until the time they begin to spin they eat huge quantities of mulberry leaves and these have to be grown for them in large quantities. The leaves are picked off the bushes, cut up and given to the worms. They eat all the time until they are ready to spin their silk



house. Then they cease eating and begin to spin the silk and don't eat any more. The silk is all stored up in their body. It is a liquid substance and they pour it out and it hardens at once into silk and can't be turned back into liquid. They call it an irreversible process. Well the worm begins + ? a few threads to sticks given him for the purpose and he gradually builds his cocoon about him. They told me that good worms spin 1,000 meters of silk.. When they are through spinning the worms are killed by heat, then the cocoons are given a boil and hot bath + kept in hot water to loosen the threads for the worm gums them together. A very fine thread comes from the cocoon. Eight strands are put into one thread at a time when they are unwound and it is done by machinery. Girls tend the machines and they are so skillful + quick you can't see them do it. They do it all by feeling. The American in charge told us that the silk was 10 times stronger than the same weight of the finest steel. They were also studying diseases of the silkworm. You would be surprised how many diseases they can get that are similar to human beings. All this silkworm work is done for experimental purposes at the universities to find the best methods + to teach the silk farmers + people how to get the best results. **[letter ends her with no closing, so there may be some missing pages to it.]**



President Harrison (First)
Built 1921 by New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, New Jersey. Hull No. 248, O/N 220,952
LOA=522'8", **LBP**=502'0", **B**=62'0", **D**=42'0", **Draft**=32'3"
Displacement=21,100 LT, **Deadweight**=13,050 LT, **Gross tonnage**=10,533
Cargo capacity: 440,704 Cu Ft., **Passengers:** 133, **Speed**=14 knots
Machinery: Twin screw, two 4-cylinder triple expansion steam engines rated at 3500 HP each at 105 RPM. Six Scotch marine single-ended fire tube boilers, 220 PSI WP and 50 degrees fahrenheit superheat.
Originally WOLVERINE STATE. Renamed **President Harrison** 1922 and operated for the U.S. Shipping Board in U.S. Pacific coast/East coast of South America trade. Transferred to Dollar Steamship Lines 1923. Inaugurated first Round-the-World service for Dollar Lines January 5, 1924. Sold to Dollar Lines 1926. Transferred to APL 1938. In December 1941 **Harrison** was chartered by the government to remove elements of the 4th Marines and Navy personnel from Shanghai. While on her way to Chinwangtao to embark other Marines she was captured by the Japanese off the Yangtze River, December 9, 1941. Renamed KAKKO MARU and later again renamed KACHIDOKI MARU. Sunk while carrying 750 Allied prisoners of war by U.S. submarine U.S.S. PAMPANITO (now at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park in San Francisco) east of Formosa (Taiwan) September 12, 1944.

Chapter 8 – Manila, Philippine Islands- May 25th through May 31st 1934

"I am now about as far from you as I could get. " **Letter from Harry to Nona enroute to Singapore from Manila**

The trip from Hong Kong to Manila across the South China Sea was 813 nautical miles and took about 2 days. They had now traveled over 13,500 nautical miles by ship, just over half of the approximately 26,000 miles they would eventually go.

The weather was relatively much cooler in the Philippines than it had been in hot, steamy Hong Kong, with nice tropical breezes. They rented 2 cars together with four Australians to sightsee throughout the city of Manila, the capital of the Philippines. It cost Harry $3.75 for their share. They thought the city to be nice, with interesting Spanish architecture, except for the native quarter where they saw squalid houses raised on poles with numerous black pigs roaming underneath and into the roads.

An every-day sight in the Philippines. (Only postcard saved by Ella Fife.)

Ella bought a hand-embroidered dress for herself and Harry got a similar one for Nona. They then went to visit an unusual cemetery that they found to be well-kept with "wonderful monuments" that differed from the depressing cemeteries in the U.S. One monument featured a large marble sculpture of a life-size woman musician reclining over the end of a full-sized grand piano.

They stopped at the aquarium, but found it not to be as "wonderful" as the one they evidently visited in Honolulu. They saw tropical fruit all over the countryside including mangoes, papaya and bananas, and large rice fields. Just as they returned to the ship, the skies opened up and they were got to experience a tropical downpour of "10 to 15 inches" in less than an hour. So, they spent the rest of their stay on the ship relaxing and playing checkers, bridge and deck golf.

Harry wrote much about the relative wealth and appearance of the various nationalities in the Philippines. There were many rich

Chinese and Americans who owned land and plantations. Harry described most native Philippinos as brown-skinned with straight black hair, but commented that there were "several different types of people among the native Philippinos and it is not known just where they come from."

When they visited, the Philippines were still an American possession, having been so since 1898 when Spain ceded it to the U. S. as part of the Treaty of Paris following the Spanish American War. (The U. S. also got Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Guam for a total of $20 million.) However, the U. S. had just that year promised to give the Philippines its independence in 10 years, but that was delayed a bit due to W. W. II, until July 4, 1946.

In 1942, Japan took control of Manila and the islands until March 1945 when General Douglas MacArthur made his famous return to the islands and liberated the country. Much of the city was destroyed during the Battle of Manila and 100,000 civilians were killed during the Manila Massacre. As a result of these events in W.W. II, Manila was the second most destroyed city in the world after Warsaw, Poland during the war.

It's a little unclear when their steamship left Manila bound for Singapore, but it was likely the 28th of May. Only two brief letters describing their stay were written on the 31st from on board, one by Harry and one by Ella.

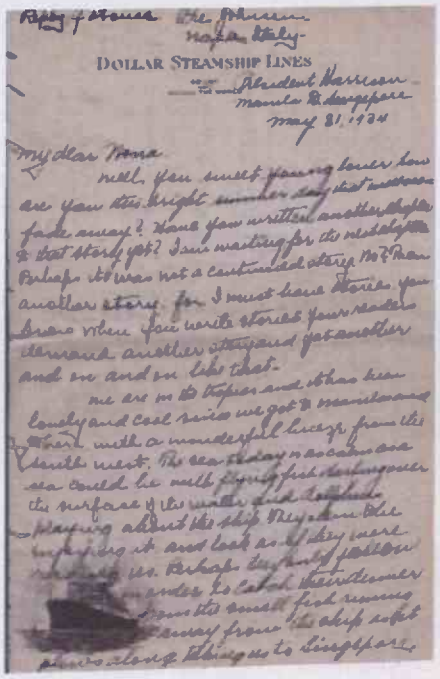
[Letter 23 from Harry] President Hoover, Manila to Singapore, May 31, 1934

Reply if at once Pres. Johnson, Naples, Italy

My dear Nona,

Well, you sweet young lover how are you this bright summer day that will soon fade away? Have you written another chapter to that story yet? I am waiting for the next chapter. Perhaps it was not a continued story. No? Then another story for I must have stories you know when you write stories your readers demand another story and yet another on and on like that.

We are in the tropics and it has been lovely and cool since we got to Manila and to here with a wonderful breeze from the south west. The sea today is as calm as a sea could be with flying fish darting over the surface of the water and dolphins playing about the ship. They seem to be enjoying it and look as if they were racing us. Perhaps they only follow in order to catch their dinner from the small fish running away from the ship as it plows along taking us to Singapore.

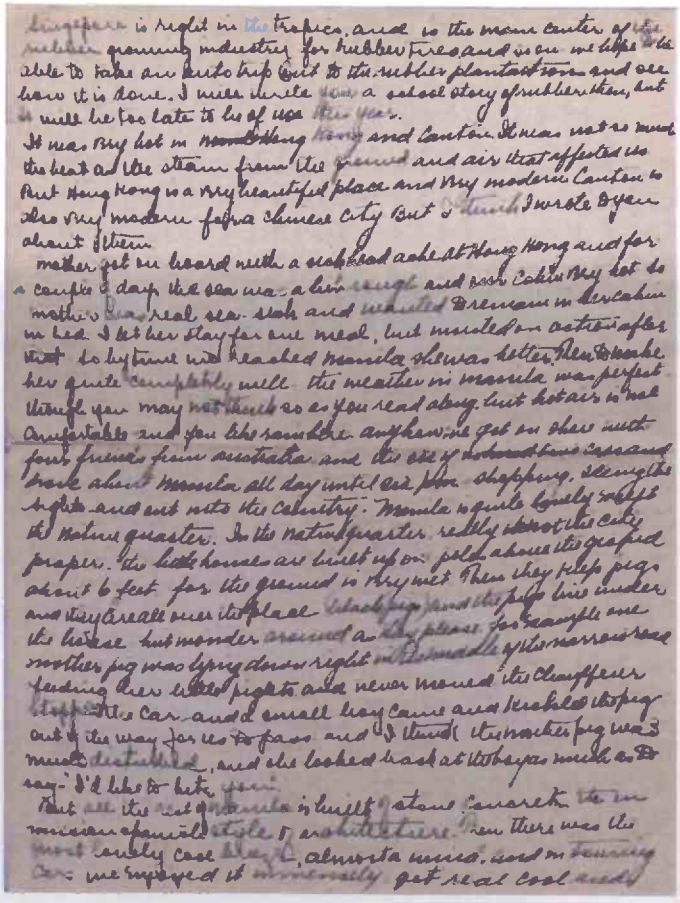


Singapore is right in the tropics and is the main center of the rubber growing industry for rubber tires and so on. We hope to be able to take an auto trip out to the rubber plantations and see how it is done. I will write you a school story of rubber then, but it will too late to be of use this year.

It was very hot in Hong Kong and Canton. It was not so much the heat as the steam from the ground and air that affected us. But Hong Kong is a very beautiful place and very modern. Canton is also very modern for a Chinese city. But, I think I wrote to you about them.

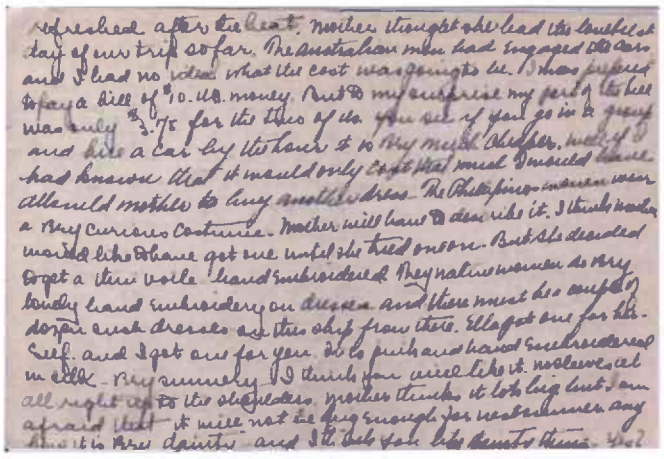
Mother got on board with a sick head ache at Hong Kong and for a couple of days the sea was a bit rough and our cabin very hot. Mother was real sea-sick and wanted to remain in her cabin in bed. I let her stay for one meal, but insisted on action after that. So by the time we reached Manila she was better. Then to make her quite completely well, the weather in Manila was perfect, though you may not think it as you read along, but hot air is not comfortable and you like rain here. Anyhow we got on shore with four friends from Australia and the six of us hired two cars and drove around Manila all day until six p.m., shopping, seeing the sights and out into the country. Manila is quite lovely except the native quarter. In the native quarter, really not the city proper, the little houses are built up on poles above the ground about 6 feet, for the ground is very wet. Then they keep pigs and they are all over the place (black pigs) and the pigs live under the house, but wander around as they please. For example, one mother pig was lying down right in the middle of the narrow road feeding her little piglets, and never moved. The chauffeur stopped the car and a small boy came and kicked the pig out of the way for us to pass, and I think the mother pig was much disturbed, and she looked back at the boy as much as to say- "I'd like to bite you!"

But all the rest of Manila is built of stone, concrete, etc. In mission Spanish style of architecture. Then there was the most lovely cool breeze, almost a wind, and in touring cars we enjoyed it immensely- got real cool and

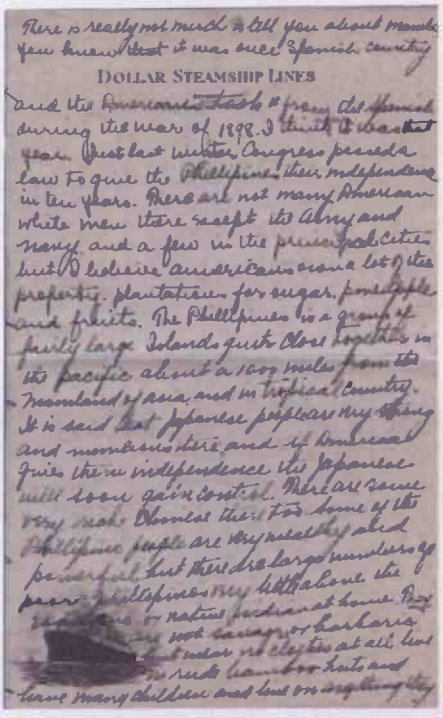


refreshed after the heat. Mother thought she had the loveliest day of our trip so far. The Australian men had engaged the cars and I had no idea what the cost was going to be. I was prepared to pay a bill of $10 U.S. money. But to my surprise my part of the bill was only $3.75 for the two of us. You see if you go in a group and hire a car by the hour it is very much cheaper. Well if I had known that it would only cost that much, I would have allowed your mother to buy another dress. The Philippino women wear a very curious costume. Mother will have to describe it. I think Mother would like to have got one until she tried one on. But she decided to get a thin voile, hand-embroidered. The native women do very lovely hand embroidery on dresses and there must be a couple of dozen such dresses on this ship from there. Ella got one for herself and I got one for you. It is pink and

hand-embroidered in silk- very summery. I think you will like it lots- big, but I am afraid that it will not be big enough for next summer. Anyhow it's dainty and I think you like dainty things. Yes?

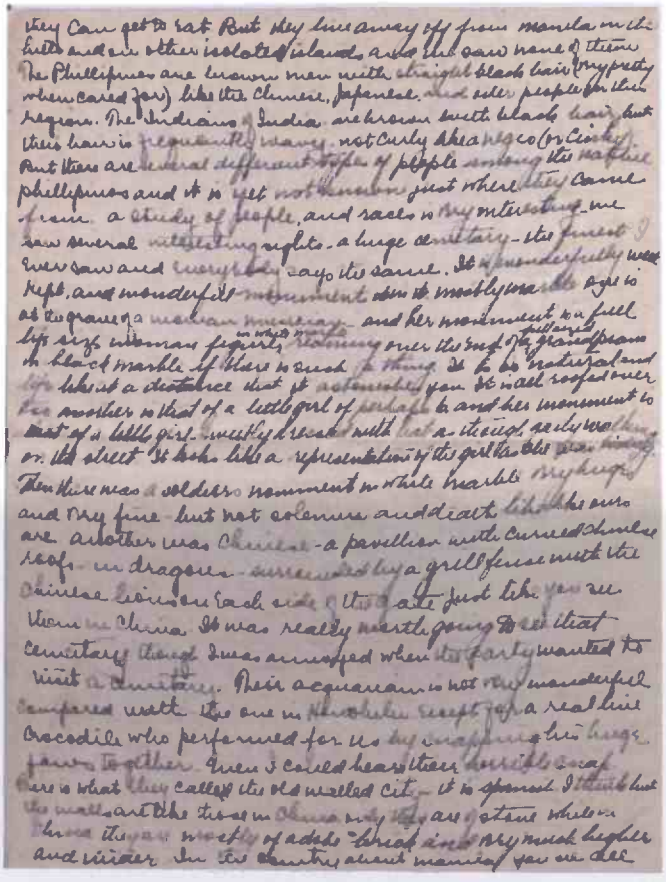


There is really not much to tell you about Manila. You know that it was once [a] Spanish country and the Americans took it from the Spanish during the war of 1898. I think it was that year. Just last winter, Congress passed a law to give the Philippines their independence in ten years. There are not many American white men there except the Army and Navy and a few in the principal cities but I believe Americans own a lot of the property plantations for sugar, pineapple and fruits. The Philippines is a group of fairly large islands quite close together in the Pacific about 1,000 miles from the mainland of Asia, and in tropical country. It is said that Japanese people are very strong and numerous there and if America gives them independence the Japanese will soon gain control. There are some very rich Chinese there too. Some of the Philippino people are very wealthy and powerful, but there are large numbers of poor Philippinos very little above the Eskimo or native Indian at home. They are not savage or barbaric but wear no clothes at all, live in rude bamboo huts and have many children and live on anything they



can get to eat. But they live away off from Manila in the hills and on other isolated islands and we saw none of them. The Philippinos are brown men with straight black hair (very pretty when cared for). Like the Chinese, Japanese and other people in this region. The Indians of India are brown with black hair, but their hair is frequently wavy, not curly like a Negro (or cinky) But there are several different types of people among the native

Philippinos and it is yet not known just where they came from. A study of people and races is very interesting. We saw several interesting sights, a huge cemetery, the finest I ever saw and everybody says the same. It is wonderfully well-kept and wonderful monuments in it, mostly marble. One is the grave of a woman musician, and her monument is a full life-size woman figure in white marble reclining over the end of a full-size grand piano in black marble if there is such a thing. It is all roofed over too. Another is that of a little girl of perhaps 6 and her monument is that of a little girl sweetly dressed with hat as though gaily walking on the street. It looks like a representation of the girl as she was living. Then there was a soldier's monument in white marble, very huge and very fine, but not solemn and dearth like ours are. Another was Chinese, a pavilion with curved Chinese roofs, with dragons, surrounded by a grill fence with the Chinese lions on each side of the gate. Just like you see them in China. It was really worth going to see that cemetery though I was annoyed when the party wanted to visit a cemetery. Their aquarium is not very wonderful compared with the one in Honolulu, except for a real live crocodile who performed for us by snapping his huge jaws together. Even I could hear their horrible snap. There is what they called the old walled city. It is Spanish, I think but the walls are like those in China only they are stone while in China they are mostly of adobe brick and very much higher and wider. In the country about Manila you see all



sorts of tropical fruits: mangoes, papaya, bananas, etc. and rice fields but very much larger than in China or Japan. Most of the day was lovely, but about 4:30 it rained and that was an experience. My, didn't it rain! It came in sheets about 10 to 15 inches I would think in about ¾ of an hour of downpour so that was worth experiencing. We had enough for the day so stayed on the ship during the evening playing bridge, checkers, table golf, etc. until the ship was ready to sail at 12 p.m. for until the ship got out of the harbor the cabins were very hot and the noise of loading was very great, too.

Yesterday I felt glorious, cool enough to realize what you actually feel like.

Well my love this letter will take perhaps a month or more to reach you. I am now about as far from you as I could get for this is the largest part of the Earth circumference. You cannot get this in time to answer before we reach Naples, Italy, so if you answer at once send it to Pres. Hoover (S.S.) Naples. If not, then Marseilles France. After Marseilles France, then New York, Aug. 14.

Love + kisses,

Daddy

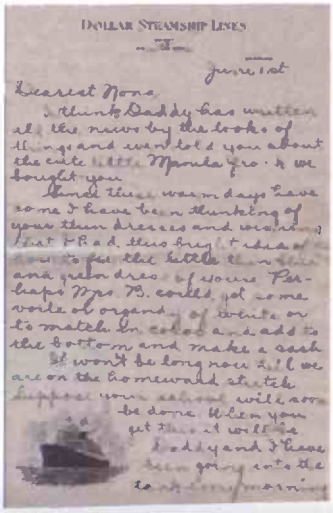
[Letter 11 from Ella] June 1st

Dearest Nona,

I think Daddy has written all the news by the looks of things and even told you about the cute little Manila frock we bought you.

Since these warm days have come, I have been thinking of your thin dresses and wishing that I had this bright idea of how to fix the little thin blue and green dress of yours. Perhaps Mrs. B. could get some voile or organdy of white or to match in color and add to the bottom and make a sash.

It won't be long now till we are on the homeward stretch. Suppose your school will soon be done. When you get this it will be. Daddy and I have been going into the tank every morning


DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

June 1st

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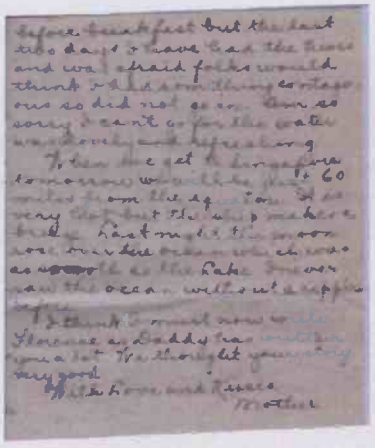
It won't be long now till we are on the homeward stretch. Suppose your school will soon be done. When you get this it will be. Daddy and I have been going into the tank every morning

Before breakfast but the last two days I have had the hives and was afraid folks would think I had something contagious so did not go in. am so sorry I can't go for the water was lovely and refreshing.

When we get to Singapore tomorrow we will be just 60 miles from the Equator. It is very hot but the ship makes a breeze. Last night the moon was as smooth as the Lake. I never saw the ocean without a ripple before. I think Daddy has written you a lot. We thought your story was very good.

With Love and kisses,

Mother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With Love and kisses,

Mother

[Letter to Florence Butterfield, who was caring for Nona, put in with Letter 11 to Nona]

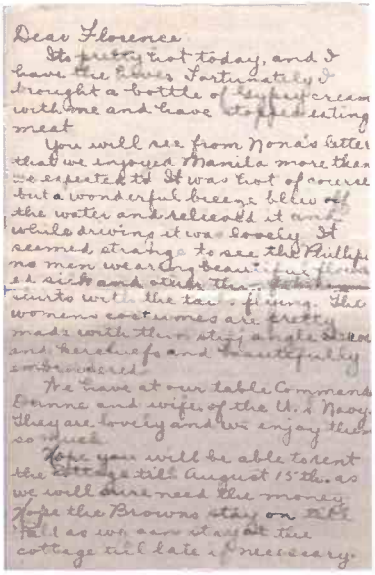
Dear Florence,

It's pretty hot today and I have the hives. Fortunately I brought a bottle of Gypsy cream with me and have stopped eating meat.

You will see from Nona's letter that we enjoyed Manila more than we expected to. It was hot of course but a wonderful breeze blew off the water and relieved it and while driving it was lovely. It seemed strange to see the Philippino men wearing beautiful flowered silk and other thin fabric shirts with the tails flying. The women's costumes are pretty, made with thin stiff angle sleeves and kerchiefs and beautifully embroidered.

We have at our table Commander Dunne and wife of the U.S. Navy. They are lovely and we enjoy them so much.

Hope you will be able to rent the cottage till august 15th, as we will sure need the money. Hope the Browns stay on till Fall as we can stay at the cottage late if necessary.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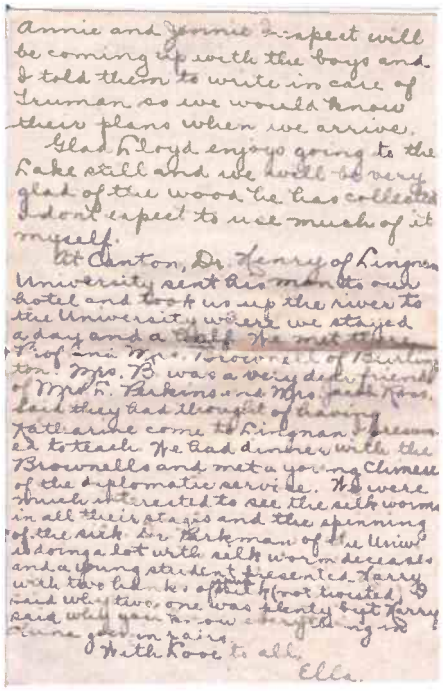
Annie and Jennie I expect will be coming up with the boys and I told them to write in care of Truman so we would know their plans when we arrive.

Glad Lloyd enjoys going to the Lake still and we will be very glad of the wood he has collected. I don't expect to use much of it myself.

At Canton, Dr. Henry of Lingnan University sent his man to our hotel and took us up the river to the University where we stayed a day and a half. We met there Prof. and Mrs. Brownell of Burlington. Mrs. B. was a very dear friend of Mrs. L. Perkins and Mrs. Jacob Ross. Said they had thought of having Katharine come to Lingnan I presumed to teach. We had dinner with the Brownells and met a young Chinese of the diplomatic service. We were much interested to see the silkworm in all their stages and the spinning of the silk. Dr. Parkman of the University is doing a lot with silkworm diseases and a young student presented Harry with two banks of spun silk (not twisted). I said: "Why two? One was plenty." But Harry said "Why you know everything in China goes in pairs.

With Love to all,

Ella



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With Love to all

Ella.

Chapter 9 –Singapore & Penang, Malaysia- June 2nd through June 7th 1934

"We were just 60 miles from the Equator at Singapore and [it was] very hot so we stayed on ship board all day. " Letter from Ella to Nona from Penang

The trip from Manila to Singapore brought them another 1,332 nautical miles southwest and took about 4 days. They arrived on Saturday, June 6th at noon in Singapore harbor. They would dock 3 nights there, staying on the ship and taking a couple of car trips into the island.

Their Steamship Route through the Far East

Again they shared a rented car, this time with Naval Commander and Mrs. Dunne who sat at their dining table on the boat. Frugal Harry was able to get their portion down to $2.75 per hour and they really enjoyed the American's company.

Their first car trip was that Saturday afternoon to the Government House area to visit the Governor's beautiful house and grounds, then to both the Botanical and the Zoological Gardens where they saw numerous tropical plants and beautiful orchids, as well as baboons, crocodiles, lions and tropical birds. They stopped to feed the many monkeys along their route. Some of the monkeys were "very polite" according to Harry, but most preferred to come up behind them to steal peanuts and bananas. They snapped pictures that survived shown below. (Not sure why there were no pics up until now except for the one picture going through the Panama Canal. Probably lost.)

Ella & Mrs. Dunne feed the monkeys peanuts.

The architecture was Spanish colonial with most houses in cream stucco with red tile roofs. They saw cocoa nut groves and rubber plantations by the mile, and stopped to pose by some rubber trees. Harry was fascinated with how rubber ran like maple sap out of the rubber trees in a white, milky consistency then was taken to factories to be smoked and run into hardened sheets of rubber. Their ship loaded up with tons of tires along with tons of tin, so the Dollar Line must also have been a commercial transporter as well.

Ella, Harry & Mrs. Dunne.

On Sunday, they decided to escape the heat and stayed on board the ship all day just relaxing. It was the British King's birthday (King George V was 69) so they had a special dinner that night in celebration. Singapore was a British Crown Colony at the time, so there would be also a big parade in Singapore the next day that they avoided, but saw the colorful crowds gathering.

The next day, they again set out by car with the Dunnes, this time further north to sightsee in Johor, the top rubber producing area in Malaysia. Johor was a sultanate at the time, ruled by Sultan Ibrahim, who ruled for 64 years from 1895 through 1959 and was one of the world's richest men and a well known international playboy, but very friendly with the British government.

They visited the Sultan's palace and its beautiful grounds and the nearby mosque, then stopped at the expanding British naval base in Singapore. They passed through a natural jungle along the way, but it was mid-day so the dangerous snakes and animals were quiet. Harry bought a carved wooden figure made into a lamp that I believe is still used at the camp on Lake Dunmore today. (?)

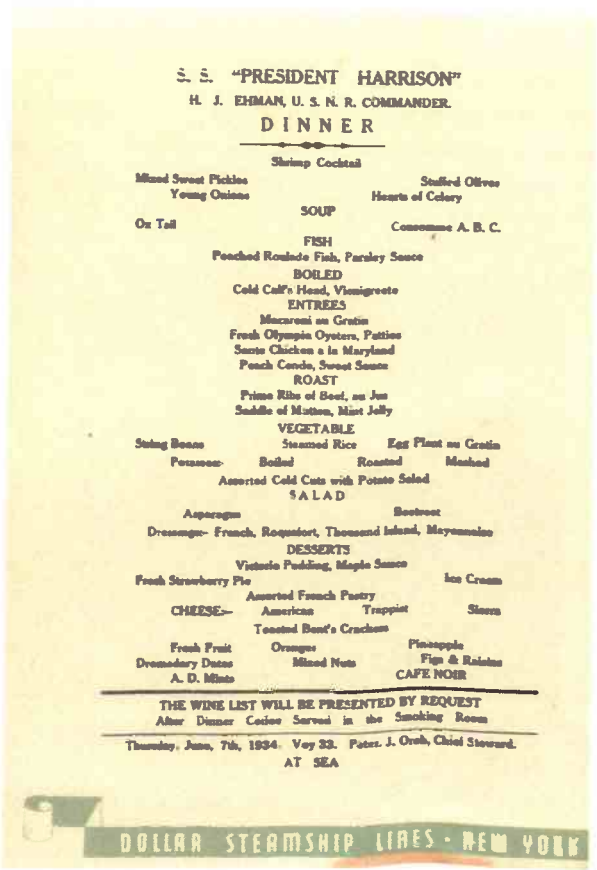
The Mosque in Johor. (Postcard saved by Ella Fife.)

On Tuesday, the 7th of June, the President Harrison cruised further up the west coast of Malaysia 377 nautical miles to their next stop in Penang. There, they took only a short one hour car trip to see the pretty area with many flowering trees and more monkeys. It appears they only stayed there one night and left the next day bound west on to Ceylon.

Sunset in Malaya. (Postcard saved by Ella Fife.)

When they visited Singapore and Penang in 1934, they both were under the control of Great Britain as was most of Malaysia (or Malaya). While Singapore was a Crown Colony, Penang and most of the other Malay states were essentially colonies of Britain with British "advisors" who lived in each and exerted considerable influence over them. It wasn't until 1963 that Malaysia was formed linking all the states and other entities into the independent Republic of Malaysia. Singapore initially joined them but soon broke off to form an independent Republic of Singapore which is now an island city-state in and of itself.

Ella saved the ship's dinner menu from June 7th which was the night they sailed toward Ceylon. It was again pretty much American/British food despite them being so far from home.



S. S. "PRESIDENT HARRISON"

H. J. EHMAN, U. S. N. R. COMMANDER.

DINNER

Shrimp Cocktail

Mixed Sweet Pickles — Stuffed Olives
Young Onions — Hearts of Celery

SOUP

Ox Tail — Consommee A. B. C.

FISH

Poached Roulade Fish, Parsley Sauce

BOILED

Cold Calf's Head, Vinaigrette

ENTREES

Macaroni au Gratin
Fresh Olympia Oysters, Patties
Sante Chicken a la Maryland
Peach Cercle, Sweet Sauce

ROAST

Prime Ribs of Beef, au Jus
Saddle of Mutton, Mint Jelly

VEGETABLE

String Beans — Steamed Rice — Egg Plant au Gratin
Potatoes- Boiled — Roasted — Mashed

Assorted Cold Cuts with Potato Salad

SALAD

Asparagus — Beetroot
Dressings- French, Roquefort, Thousand Island, Mayonnaise

DESSERTS

Victoria Pudding, Maple Sauce
Fresh Strawberry Pie — Ice Cream
Assorted French Pastry
CHEESE:- American — Trappist — Sbaun
Toasted Bent's Crackers

Fresh Fruit — Oranges — Pineapple
Dromedary Dates — Mixed Nuts — Figs & Raisins
A. D. Mints — CAFE NOIR

THE WINE LIST WILL BE PRESENTED BY REQUEST
After Dinner Coffee Served in the Smoking Room

Thursday, June, 7th, 1934. Voy 33. Peter. J. Orsh, Chief Steward.
AT SEA

DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES · NEW YORK

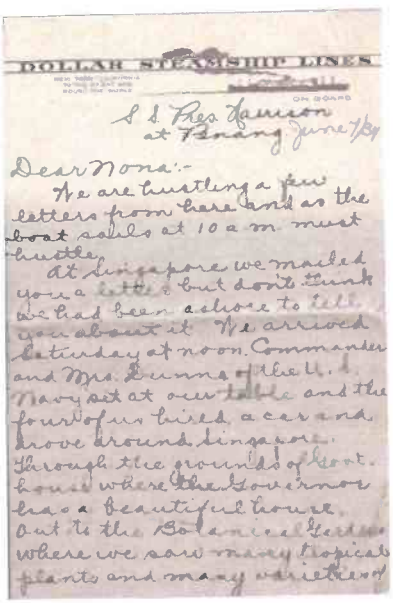
Harry & Ella each wrote only one quick letter from Penang about their stay in Singapore and Penang.

[Letter 12 from Ella] S.S. Pres. Harrison at Penang, June 7/34

Dear Nona,

We are hustling a few letters from here and as the boat sails at 10 a. m. must hustle.

At Singapore we mailed you a letter but don't think we had been ashore to tell you about it. We arrived Saturday at noon. Commander and Mrs. Dunne of the U.s. Navy sit at our table and the four of us hired a car and drove around Singapore. Through the grounds of Gov't. House where the Governor has a beautiful house. Out to the Botanical Gardens where we saw many tropical plants and many varieties of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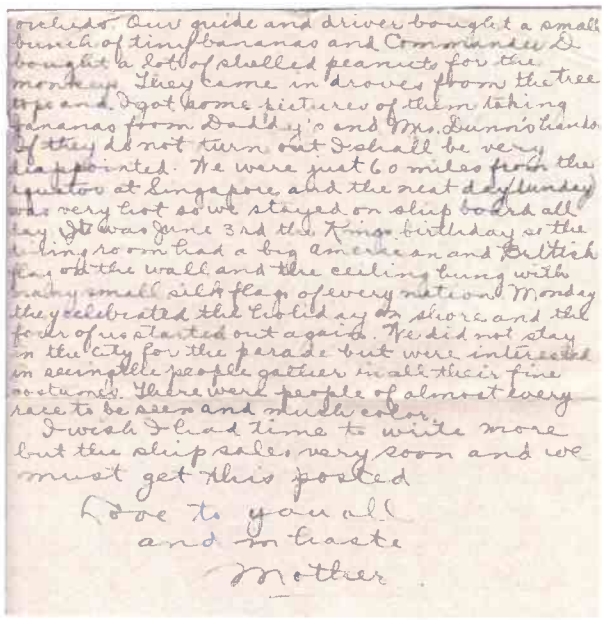
orchids. Our guide and driver bought a small bunch of tiny bananas and Commander D. bought a lot of shelled peanuts for the monkeys. They came in droves from the tree tops and I got some pictures of them taking bananas from Daddy's and Mrs. Dunne's hands. If they do not turn out, I shall be very disappointed. We were just 60 miles from the equator at Singapore and the next day (Sunday) was very hot so we stayed on ship board all day. It was June 3rd, the King's birthday so the dining room had a big American and British flag on the wall, and the ceiling hung with small silk flags of every nation. Monday they celebrated the holiday on shore and the four of us started out again. We did not stay in the city for the parade, but were interested in seeing the people gather in all their fine costumes. There were people of almost every race to be seen and much color.

I wish I had time to write more but the ship sails very soon and we must get this posted.

Love to you all and in haste,

Mother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Love to you all
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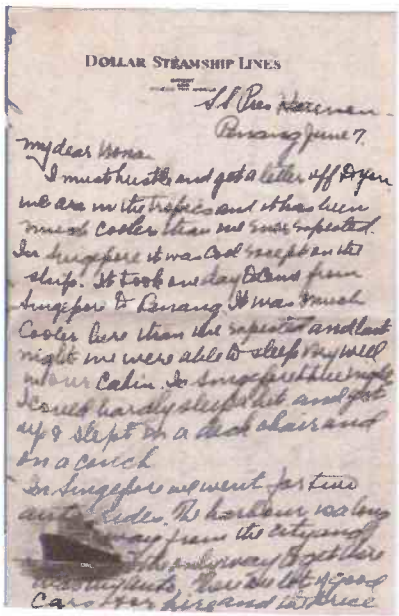
Mother

[Letter 24 from Harry] S. S. Pres. Harrison, Penang, June 7

My dear Nona,

I must hustle and get a letter off to you. We are in the tropics and it has been much cooler than we ever expected. In Singapore it was cool except on the ship. It took one day to come from Singapore to Penang. It was cooler here than we expected and last night we were able to sleep well in our cabin. In Singapore three nights I could hardly sleep a bit and got up + slept in a deck chair and on a couch.

In Singapore we went for two auto rides. The harbor is a long way from the city and the only way to get there was by auto. There are lots of good cars for hire and the price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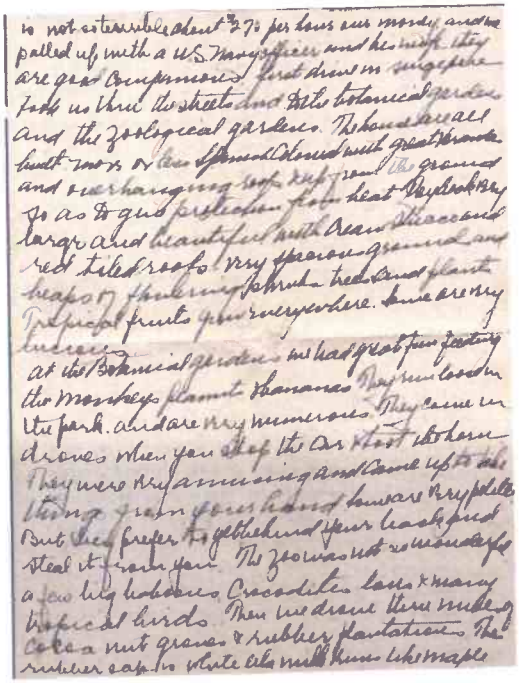
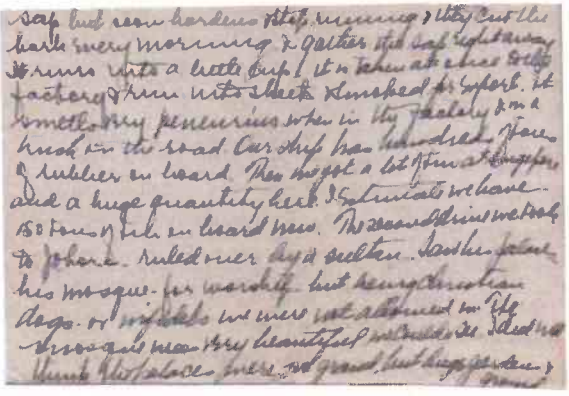
is not so terrible about $2.70 per hour our money and we pulled palled up with a U. S. Navy officer and his wife. They are good companions. First drive in Singapore took us through the streets and to the botanical gardens and the zoological gardens. The houses are all built more or less Spanish colonial with great branches and overhanging roofs + up from the ground so as to give protection from heat. They look very large and beautiful with cream stucco and red tiled roofs, very spacious grounds and heaps of flowering shrubs, trees and plants. Tropical fruits grow everywhere. Some are very luscious.

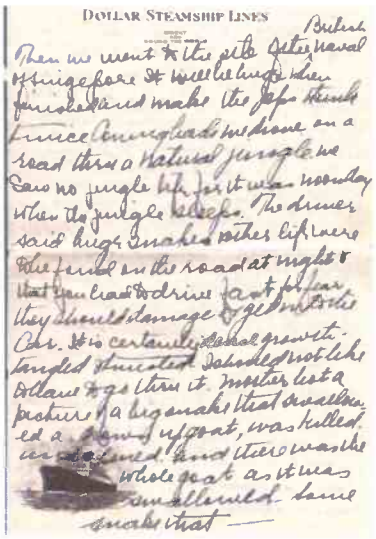
At the Botanical Gardens we had great fun feeding the monkeys peanuts + bananas. They run loose in the park and are very numerous. They come in droves when you stop the car + toot the horn. They were very amusing and came up to take things from your hand. Some are very polite. But they prefer to get behind your back and steal it from you. The zoo was not so wonderful, a few big baboons, crocodiles, lions + many tropical birds. Then we drove through miles of cocoa nut groves + rubber plantations. The rubber sap is white milk + runs like maple



sap, but soon hardens + stops running + they cut the bark every morning + gather the sap right away. It runs into a little cup. It is taken at once to the factory + run into sheets + smoked for export. It smells very peneurious [rubbery?] when in the factory + in a truck on the road. Our ship has hundreds of tons of rubber on board. Then we got a lot of tin at Singapore and a huge quantity here. I estimated we have 150 tons of tin on board now. The second drive we took to Johore, ruled over by a sultan. Saw his palace, his mosque for worship, but being Christian dogs or infidels we were not allowed in. The mosque was very beautiful we could see. I did not think the palaces were so grand, but huge gardens + grounds.



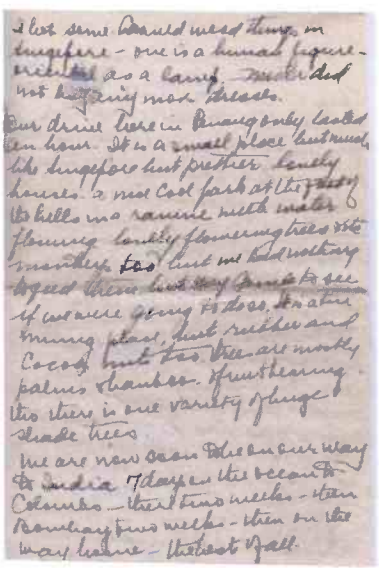
Then we went to the site of the British Naval **[Station]** of Singapore. It will be huge when finished and make the Japs think twice. Coming back home we drove on a road through a natural jungle. We saw no jungle life for it was noon-day when the jungle sleeps. The driver said huge snakes + other life were to be found on the road at night + that you had to drive fast for fear they should damage or get into the car. It is certainly dense growth, tangled + twisted. I should not like to have to go through it. Mother bought a picture of a big snake that swallowed a grown-up goat, was killed and opened and there was the whole goat, as it was swallowed. Some snake that.


DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

I bought some carved wood things in Singapore- one is a human figure, oriental as a lamp. Mother did not buy any more dresses.

Our drive here in Penang only lasted an hour. It is a small place but much like Singapore but prettier, lovely houses, a nice cool park at the foot of the hills in a ravine with water flowing, lovely flowering trees, etc. monkeys, too, but we had nothing to feed them, but they came to see if we were going to do so. It is a tin mining place, but rubber and cocoa nuts too. Trees are mostly palms + bamboos + fruit-bearing though there is one variety of huge shade trees.

We are now soon to be on our way to India 7 days on the ocean to Colombo- there two weeks – then Bombay two weeks – then on the way home – best of all.

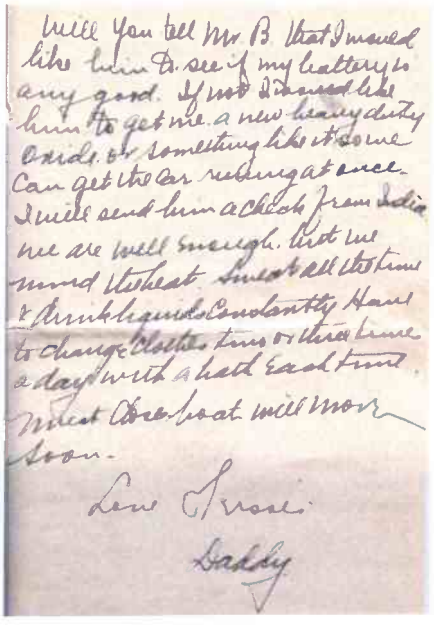


Will you tell Mr. B. that I would like him to see if my battery is any good. If not I would like him to get me a new heavy duty oxide or something like it so we can get the car running at once. I will send him a check from India. We are well enough, but we mind the heat. Sweat all the time + drink liquids constantly. Have to change clothes two or three times a day with a bath each time.

Must close, boat will move soon.

Love + Kisses,

Daddy


Will you tell Mr B that I would like him to see if my battery is any good. If not I would like him to get me a new heavy duty Oxide or something like it so we Can get the car running at once. I will send him a check from India we are well enough. But we mind the heat. Sweat all the time & drink liquids Constantly Have to change Clothes two or three time a day with a bath Each time. Must close boat will move soon.

Love Grace

Daddy

Chapter 10 – Colombo, Ceylon- June 10th through June 25th 1934

"We saw huge elephants taking a bath and they performed for us quite cleverly, and they seemed to like to show off."
Letter from Harry to Nona from Ceylon

Their next stop was on the island country of Ceylon just 19 miles south of the southern tip of India. Like their previous three stops in Hong Kong, Singapore and Penang, Ceylon was still part of the colonial empire of Great Britain. Ceylon would get its independence fourteen years later in 1948 when it became an independent dominion, then became a republic in 1972, changing its name to Sri Lanka (Sanskrit for "Sacred Island") as it is known today. The island is fairly large at about 25,000 square miles, an area that would fit comfortably inside the State of Maine.

Modern day map of the Far East & India showing Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) south of India.

The trip from Penang (just north of Kuala Lampur in Malaysia on the map above) was 1,269 nautical miles and took about three days, with their arrival at 7 p.m. on Sunday June 10th. The President Harrison docked in Colombo, the sea port capital of Ceylon, and they moved to a nice guest house in the local YWCA.

It was the heart of the rainy, monsoon season so they got drenching, wet rains daily that cause everything to be damp, sticky and smell musty in the heat. The southern part of the island gets an average of 98 inches per month during the monsoon season. The scenery was very beautiful with steep mountains, deep valleys and terraced rice fields amongst the "vividly green" vegetation.

They apparently removed to the city of Kandy in the central region where they were 2,000 feet above sea level but still below the top peaks of some 6,000 feet. There they stayed at the Queens Hotel right in the city center, and visited the Peradeniya Gardens and went on drives through the country seeing huge tea plantations, cocoa nut groves, rubber trees, all kinds of spices growing including cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, and pepper, and even cocaine and "numerous drug trees".

Peradeniya Gardens, Kandy, Ceylon (Postcard saved by Ella Fife.)

In Kandy, Harry snapped this picture of Ella by the artificial lake beside their hotel:

They saw huge elephants and lots of monkeys everywhere. Ceylon was and is one of the top exporters of tea (Ceylon Tea is famous), as well as cinnamon, coffee and rubber, plus all the spices mentioned above.

Picture taken by Harry & Ella.

Tea gardens in Sri Lanka today.

On Saturday, June 16th they returned to the YWCA in Colombo and were invited to the sea-side home of a Mrs. Bingham for three nights. Mrs. Bingham was a friend of one of the Middlebury College trustees, a Doctor Burton, and the Binghams showed them around the nearby area by car trips up the coast, one day more than 81 miles.

They saw more elephants, and stopped to watch them working on a breakwater by moving huge stones and nudging them into position. Ella snapped the picture below of the "Mama" elephant working.

The natives wore little or no clothing and ranged from "light black to very dark black." Harry didn't find them very friendly and they were all constantly trying to get his money. Many were beggars. Some of the rich and ruling class dressed in "foreign" clothes and had fine houses and some cars. Most natives got around on foot or in two-wheeled bullock carts.

They met a snake charmer with a cobra and Harry paid a rupee (35 cents) to watch him charm the snake with only minor swaying seen. The charmer performed another lame trick by growing a mango tree from a dry seed in a minute using some kind of sleight of hand that Harry couldn't figure out.

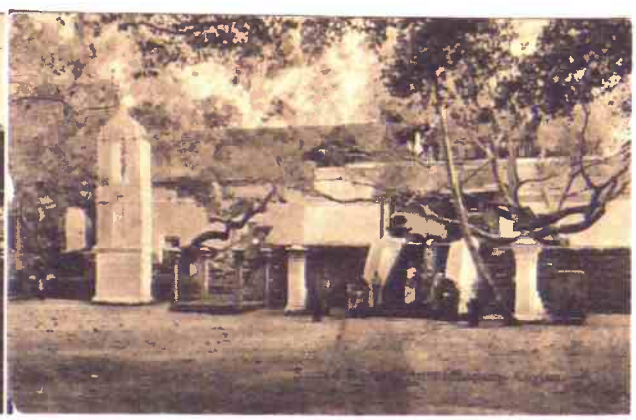
At some point, the Commissioner of Archaeology took them to the north to the ancient capital city of Anuradhapura where they saw very interesting old monuments and ancient ruins dating back to the 5th century B.C. They snapped the two pics below while there:

with Commissioner of archaeology of Ceylon anaradha Pura. old Capital of north Ceylon

Mrs Fife feeding fish in old bathing Tanks of Budhist Priests. Dated about 700 - A.D. Anaradha Pura

The bathing-tanks above are called "pokunas' which are scattered everywhere through the jungle. The city also contains a sacred Bo-Tree which is said to date back to the year 245 BC. The Bo-Tree, shown below right, is a sacred fig tree to Buddhists because that was where the founder of Buddhism was sitting under when he was first enlightened. For more on this interesting site see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anuradhapura . Postcards saved by Ella are below:

Moon Stone Steps



Sacred Bo-tree

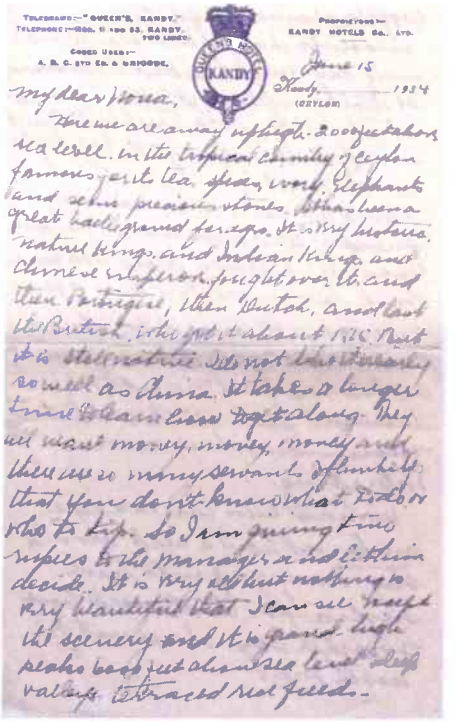
On Monday June 25th, the 159th day of their trip round the world, they left Ceylon on board a different steamship, the President Hayes (details on this ship at end of this chapter), bound for Bombay, India. Before they left, they picked up the letter from Nona shown back in Chapter 7 (Japan) where Nona asked Harry to make his letters more interesting like those of Teddy Roosevelt to his children. Harry was somewhat miffed by this as he said he thought his letters were interesting already!

There were two letters from Harry and one from Ella about Ceylon.

[Letter 25 from Harry] Queen's Hotel, Kandy June 15, 1934

My dear Nona,

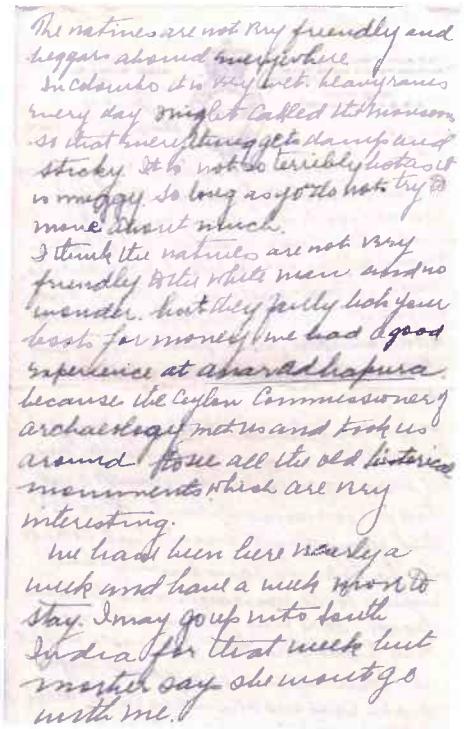
Here we are away up high- 2,000 feet above sea level – in the tropical country of Ceylon, famous for its tea, spices, ivory, elephants and semi-precious stones. It has been a great battleground for ages. It is very historic. Native kings and Indian kings and Chinese emperors fought over it, and then Portugese, then Dutch, and last the British, who got it about 1815. But it is still native. I do not like it nearly so well as China. It takes a longer time to learn how to get along. They all want money, money, money and there are so many servants + flunkeys that you don't know what to do or who to tip. So I am giving two rupees to the manager and let him decide. It is very old but nothing is very beautiful that I can see except the scenery and it is grand- high peaks 6,000 feet above sea level + deep valleys, terraced rice fields.



The natives are not very friendly and beggars abound everywhere. In Colombo, it is very wet. Heavy rains every day + night called the monsoon, so that everything gets damp and sticky. It is not terribly hot as it is muggy. So long as you do not try to move about much.

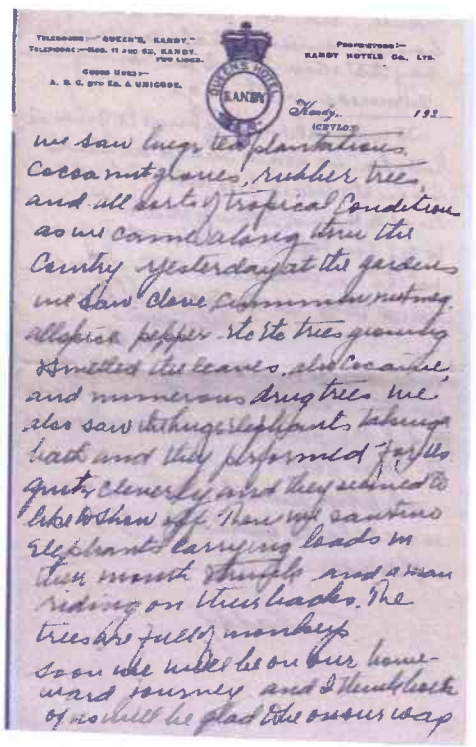
I think the natives are not very friendly to the white man and no wonder, but they fairly lick your boots for money. We had a good experience at Anuradhapura because the Ceylon Commissioner of Archaeology met us and took us to see all the old historical monuments which are very interesting.

We have been here nearly a week and have a week more to stay. I may go up into South India for that week, but Mother says she won't go with me.



The natives are not very friendly and beggars abound everywhere.
In Colombo it is very wet. heavy rains every day + night called the monsoons so that everything gets damp and sticky. It is not so terribly hot here it is muggy so long as you do not try to move about much.
I think the natives are not very friendly to the white men + no wonder. but they really look your best for money. We had a good experience at Anuradhapura because the Ceylon Commissioner archaeology met us and took us around + saw all the old historic monuments which are very interesting.
We had been here nearly a week and have a week more to stay. I may go up into South India for that week but mother say she won't go with me.

We saw huge tea plantations, cocoa nut groves, rubber trees and all sorts of tropical conditions as we came along through the country. Yesterday at the gardens we saw clove, cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, pepper, etc. trees growing + smelled the leaves. Also cocaine and numerous drug trees. We also saw the huge elephants taking a bath and they performed for us quite cleverly and they seemed to like to show off. Then we saw two elephants carrying loads in their mouth + trunk and a man riding on their backs. The trees are full of monkeys. Soon we will be on our homeward journey and I think both of us will be glad to be on our way

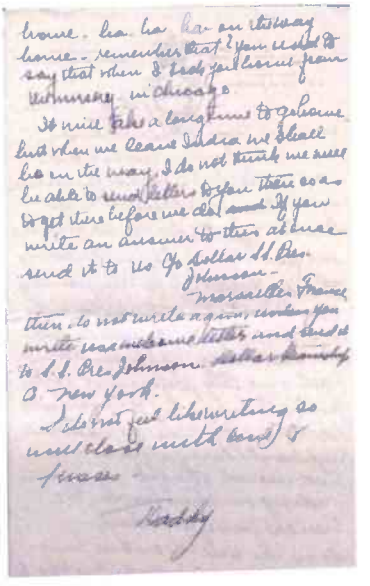


home- ha, ha, ha on the way home – remember that? You used to say that when I took you home from the nursery in Chicago.

It will take a long time to go home, but when we leave India we shall be on the way. I do not think we will be able to send letters to you then so as to get there before we do. If you write an answer to this at once, send it to us c/o Dollar S.S. Pres. Johnson, Marseilles, France then do not write again, unless you write us a welcome letter and send it to S.S. Pres. Johnson, Dollar Steamship Co., New York.

I do not feel like writing so will close with love + kisses.

Daddy



[Letter 13 from Ella]

Queen's Hotel, Kandy June 15, 1934

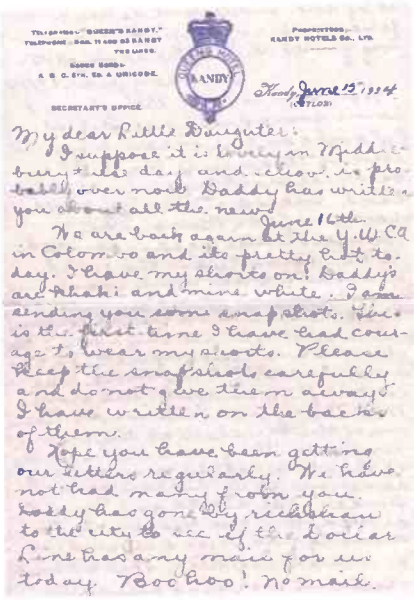
My dear Little Daughter:

I suppose it is lovely in Middlebury these days and school is probably over now. Daddy has written you about all the news.

June 16th

We are back again at the Y.W.C.A. in Colombo and its pretty hot today. I have my shorts on. Daddy's are khaki and mine white. I am sending you some snapshots. This is the first time I have had courage to wear my shorts. Please keep the snapshots carefully and do not give them away. I have written on the backs of them.

Hope you have been getting our letters regularly. We have not had many from you. Daddy has gone by rickshaw to the city to see if the Dollar Line has any mail for us today. Boo hoo! No mail.



Kandy June 13 1934

My dear Little Daughter:

I suppose it is lovely in Middlebury + the day and I know it is probably over now & Daddy has written you about all the news.

June 14th

We are back again at the Y.W.C.A. in Colombo and it's pretty hot today. I have my shorts on & Daddy's are Khaki and mine white. I am sending you some snapshots. This is the first time I have had courage to wear my shorts. Please keep the snapshots carefully and do not give them away. I have written on the backs of them.

Hope you have been getting our letters regularly. We have not had many from you. Daddy has gone by ricksha[w] to the city to see if the Dollar Line has any mail for us today. Boo hoo! No mail.

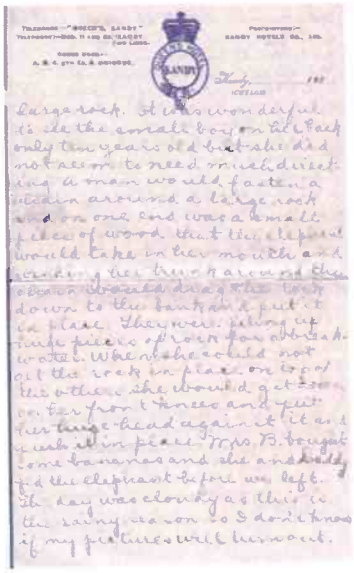
A Mrs. Bingham has called us up and invited us out to her home for a couple of days. She is calling for us this afternoon at 5.

Tuesday, June 19/34

Went out to Mrs. Bingham's home some distance out of Colombo on the ocean front. It seemed strange to have the ocean almost level with the land. Indeed standing on the portico of the Bingham's bungalow the ocean seemed to be higher than the land and the waves were washing in. It is so near the equator that no tide is noticeable. They have a cute little boy about 3 yrs. Old who was shy at first. He has a nurse called an Ama who looks after him all the time. Mrs. Bingham knows Dr. Barton, one of the trustees at the College very well. They said the bathing at this time of the year is very dangerous so we did not go in. Sunday after siesta and tea we drove down the shore into the country and Monday we drove 81 miles altogether. Saw a Mama elephant working piling up

large rock. It was wonderful to see the small boy on her back only ten years old, but she did not seem to need much directing. A man

would fasten a chain around a large rock and on one end was a small piece of wood that the elephant would take in her mouth and winding her trunk around the chain would drag the rock down to the bank and put it in place. They were piling up huge pieces of rock for a breakwater. When she could not get the rock in place on top of the others she would get down on her front knees and put her huge head against it and push it in place. Mrs. B bought some bananas and she and Daddy fed the elephant before we left. The day was cloudy as this is the rainy season so I don't know if my pictures will turn out.

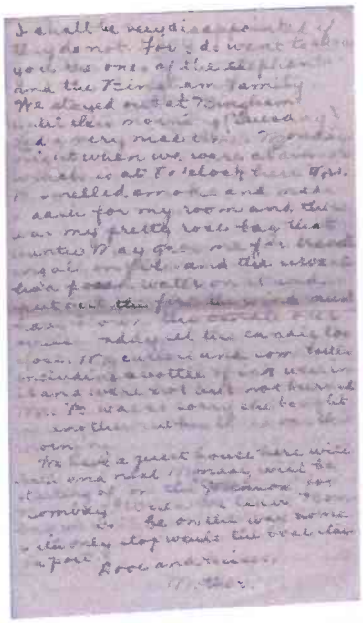


I shall be very disappointed if they do not. For I do want to show you the ones of the elephant and the Bingham family. We stayed out at the Binghams until this morning (Tuesday). We had a very nice time. Monday night when we were at dinner which is 8 o'clock here, Mrs. B. smelled smoke and made a dash for my room and there was my pretty rose bag that Auntie May gave me for travelling all on fire, and the servants had poured water on it and put out the fire. The wind must have blown the candle over or else Daddy set the candle too close, My curlers and some bottles including a bottle of ink were in it and were hot but not burned. Mrs. B. was so sorry she bought me another rubber lined one this morning.

We have a guest house here with bath and next Monday will be starting off on the "Johnson" for Bombay **[actually the Pres. Hayes]**. When we leave Bombay we will be on the way home with only stop while the boat stays in port.

Love and kisses,

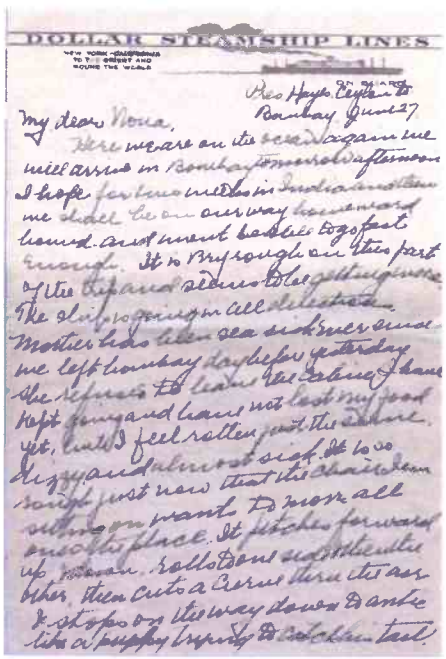
Mother



[Letter 26 from Harry] Pres. Hayes, Ceylon to Bombay, June 27

My dear Nona,

Here we are on the ocean again. We will arrive in Bombay tomorrow afternoon I hope for two weeks in India and then we shall be on our way homeward bound, and won't be able to go fast enough. It is very rough on this part of the trip and seems to be getting worse. The ship is going in all directions. Mother has been sea sick ever since we left Bombay **[really Ceylon]** day before yesterday. She refuses to leave the cabin. I have kept going and have not lost my food yet, but I feel rotten just the same, dizzy and almost sick. It is so rough just now that the chair I am sitting on wants to move all over the place, rolls to one side then the other, then cuts a curve through the air + stops on the way down to another like a puppy trying to catch his tail


DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

NEW YORK-CALIFORNIA TO THE ORIENT AND ROUND THE WORLD

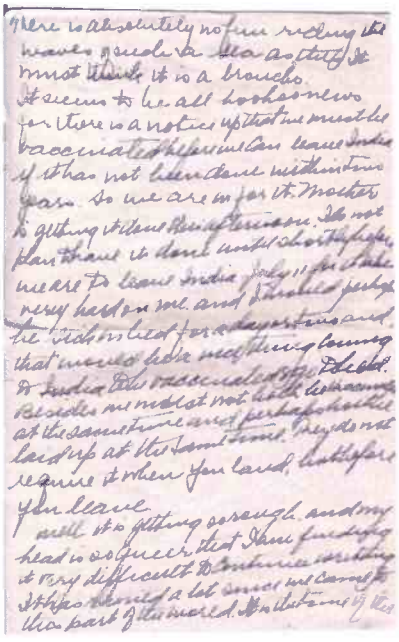
On board S.S. Pres. Hayes, Ceylon to Bombay June 27

My dear Nona,

Here we are on the ocean again. We will arrive in Bombay tomorrow afternoon I hope for two weeks in India and then we shall be on our way homeward bound, and won't be able to go fast enough. It is very rough on this part of the trip and seems to be getting worse. The ship is going in all directions. Mother has been sea sick ever since we left Bombay day before yesterday. She refuses to leave the cabin. I have kept going and have not lost my food yet, but I feel rotten just the same, dizzy and almost sick. It is so rough just now that the chair I am sitting on wants to move all over the place. It pitches forward one side then the other, then cuts a curve through the air + stops on the way down to another like a puppy trying to catch his tail

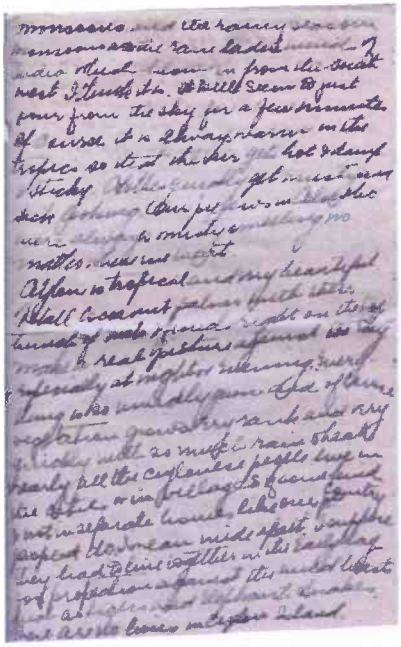
There is absolutely no fun riding the waves of such a sea as this. It must think it is a bronco. It seems to be all boohoo news **[?] for** there is a notice up that we must be vaccinated before we can leave India if it has not been done within two years. So we are in for it. Mother is getting it done this afternoon. I do not plan to have it done until shortly before we are to leave India July 11 for it takes very hard on me, and I would perhaps be sick in bed for a day or two and that would be a nice thing coming to India to be vaccinated + go to bed. Besides we must not both be vaccinated at the same time and perhaps both be laid up at the same time. They do not require it when you land, but before you leave.

Well, it is getting so rough and my head is so queer that I am finding it very difficult to continue writing. It has rained a lot since we came to this part of the world. It is the time of the



monsoons and the rainy season. Monsoons are the rain-laden winds of India which blow in from the southwest, I think it is. It will seem to just pour from the sky for a few minutes. Of course it is always warm in the tropics so that the air gets hot + damp + sticky. Clothes quickly get musty and sick looking. Our pillows in Colombo were always musty smelling no matter where we went.

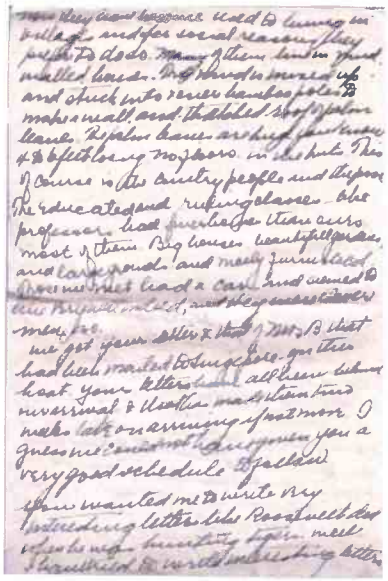
Ceylon is tropical and very beautiful. The tall coconut palms with their bunch of nuts + fronds right on the top make a real picture against the sky especially at night or evening. Everything is so vividly green and of course vegetation grows very rank and very quickly with so much rain + heat. Nearly all the Ceylanese people live in the cities or in villages of some kind + not in separate homes like our country's people do. I mean wide apart. I suppose they had to live together in the early days for protection against the wild beasts such as tigers and elephants + snakes. There are no lions in Ceylon Island



now. They have become used to living in villages and for social reasons they prefer to do so. Many of them live in mud-walled houses. The mud is mixed up and stuck into + over bamboo poles to make a wall and thatched roof of palm leaves. The palm leaves are huge you know 4 to 6 feet long. No floors in the huts. This of course is the country people and the poor. The educated and ruling classes- like professors – have finer homes than ours, most of them. Big houses, beautiful gardens and large grounds, and nicely furnished. Those we met had a car and seemed to live very well indeed, and they were clever men too.

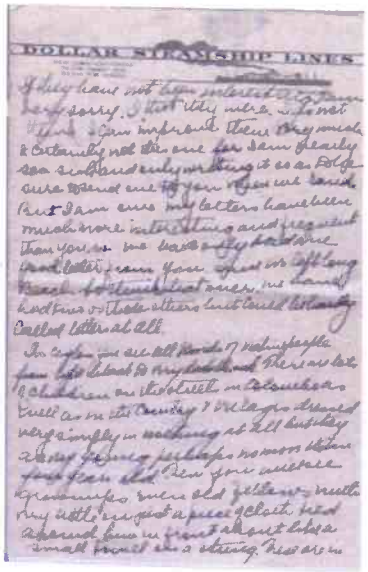
We got your letter + that of Mrs. B. that had been mailed to Singapore on this boat. Your letters have all been behind our arrival + that has made them two weeks late on arriving if not more. I guess we could not have given you a very good schedule to follow.

You wanted me to write very interesting letters like Roosevelt when he was hunting tigers. Well, I have tried to write interesting letters



If they have not been interesting I am very sorry. I thought they were. I do not think I can improve them very much + certainly not this one for I am nearly sea sick and only writing it so as to be sure to send one to you when we land. But I am sure my letters have been much more interesting and frequent than yours. We have only had one good letter from you since we left long Beach. So think that over. We have had two or three others but could be hardly called letters at all.

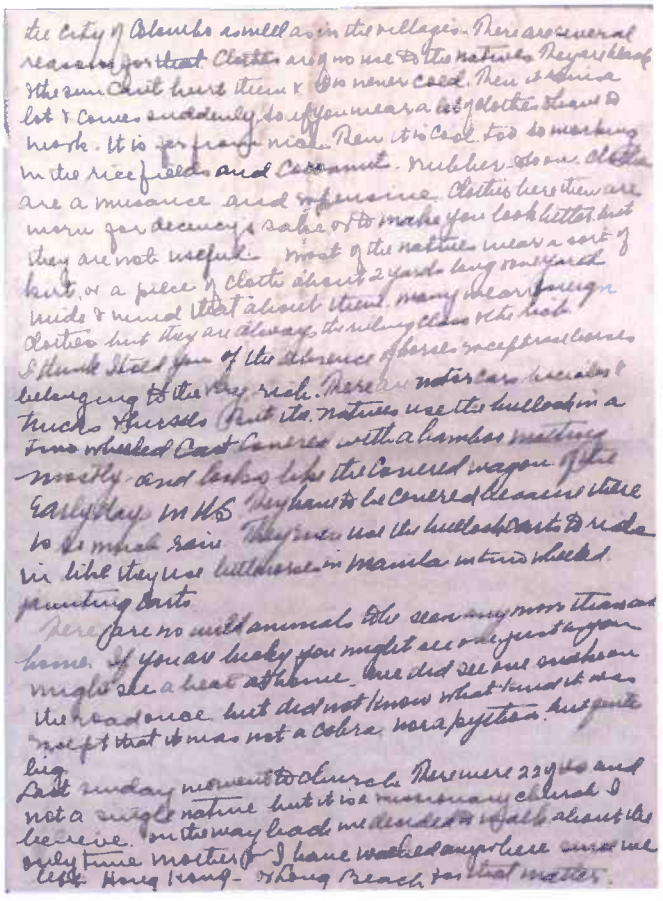
I n Ceylon you see all kinds of native people from light black to very dark black. There are lots of children on the streets in Colombo as well as in the country + villages dressed very simply in nothing at all, but they are very young, perhaps no more than four years old. Then you will see grown-ups, even old fellows, with very little on just a piece of cloth tied around him in front about like a small towel on a string. These are in



the city of Colombo as in the villages. There are several reasons for that. Clothes are no use to the natives. They are black + the sun can't hurt them + it is never cold. Then it rains lots + comes suddenly. So if you wear a lot of clothes + have to work, it is far from nice. Then it is cool, too. So working in the rice fields and coconuts + rubber + so on, clothes are a nuisance and expensive. Clothes here than are more for decency's sake or to make you look better, but they are not useful. Most of the natives wear a sort of skirt, or a piece of cloth about 2 yards long + one yard wide + wind that about them. Many wear foreign clothes but they are always the ruling class or the rich. I think I told you of the absence of horses except race horses belonging to the very rich. There are motor cars, bicycles + trucks + buses, But he natives use the bullock in a two-wheeled cart covered with a bamboo matting mostly, and looks like a covered wagon of the early days in U.S. They have to be covered because there is so much rain. They even use the bullock carts to ride in like they use little horses in Manila in two-wheeled jaunting carts.

There are no wild animals to be seen any more than at home. If you are lucky you might see one just as you might see a bear at home. We did see one snake on the road once, but did not know what kind it was except that it was not a cobra, nor a python, but quite big.

Last Sunday we went to church. There were 22 of us and not a single native, but it is a missionary church I believe. On the way back, we decided to walk, about the only time Mother + I have walked anywhere since we left Hong Kong or Long Beach for that matter.



We had only got a little way when we met one of these snake charmer fakirs and wanted to show us his snake + mongoose fight + charm the snake and then make the mango tree grow up. So to get him to perform I offered a rupee which is about 35 cents. We did not want to see the fight so he charmed the cobra snake with sort of reed pipe he played on. It did not dance much but swayed + stood up. Its fangs were drawn out and after a while he picked it up by the neck + held it out and it did not fight a bit. Then he put it away +

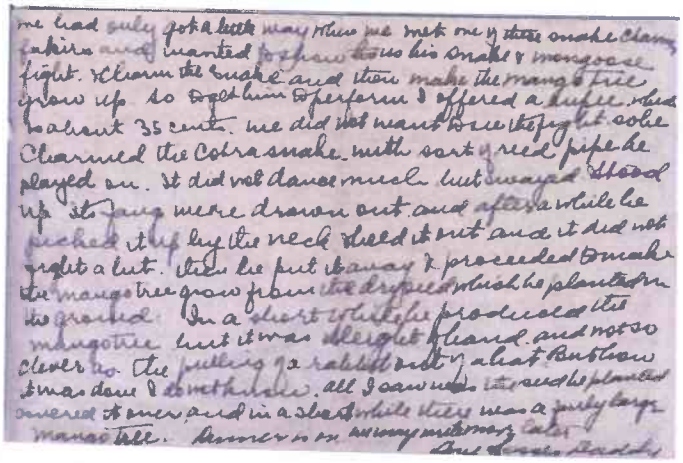
Snake Charmer. (Postcard saved by Ella Fife.)

proceeded to make the mango tree grow from the dry seed which he planted in the ground. In a short while, he produced the mango tree, but it was sleight of hand and not so clever as the pulling of a rabbit out of a hat. But how it was done I do not know. All I saw was the seed planted, covered it over and in a short while there was a fairly large mango tree.

Dinner is on. We may write more later.

Love + kisses.

Daddy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Love + kisses
Daddy

Steamship taken from Colombo Ceylon to Bombay, India- 6/25-6/28/1934

Source: History - 1920-31 Vessel Statistics at http://www.apl.com/history/timeline/stat5.htm

President Hayes (First)
Built 1920 by New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, New Jersey. Hull No. 245, O/N 220,858
LOA=522'8", **LBP**=502'0", **B**=62'0", **D**=42'0", **Draft**=32'3"
Displacement=21,100 LT, **Deadweight**=13,050 LT, **Gross tonnage**=10,533
Cargo capacity: 464,710 Cu Ft., **Passengers:** 223, **Speed**=14 knots
Machinery: Twin screw, two 4-cylinder triple expansion steam engines rated at 3500 HP each at 105 RPM. Six Scotch marine single-ended fire tube boilers, 220 PSI WP and 50 degrees fahrenheit superheat.
Originally CREOLE STATE. Renamed **President Hayes** 1922. Purchased by Dollar Steamship Lines from U S Shipping Board 1923. Transferred to APL 1938. Renamed **President Tyler (First)** 1940. Requisitioned by the Navy in January 1942 but converted to an Army transport. Conversion to a hospital ship was commenced by Bethlehem Steel Co., Boston, Massachusetts in February 1945 and renamed HOWARD A. McCURDY. Conversion terminated when V-J Day occurred. Renamed **President Tyler** in 1946 and assigned to carrying military dependents. Sold for scrapping March 1947.

Chapter 11 – India- June 28th through July 14th 1934

"India ...is the living pageant of a people with a passion for beauty... a curious brocade of life in which rich and poor take their part." **Dollar Steamship Line description in Guest List booklet given to Harry & Ella**

On Thursday night, June 28th, after a 3 day boat-ride from Colombo, Ceylon, Harry and Ella arrived in Bombay, India for a two-week visit. The trip aboard the President Hayes was the roughest yet that they had experienced since leaving home. Ella was constantly sea-sick and spent most of the time in their cabin. Harry fared slightly better, but was jostled around while just trying to write a letter in a deck chair.

Bombay was 885 nautical miles from Colombo up the western coast of India. It is today, and was then, one of the largest seaports on the Arabian Sea. Today there are some 14 million people who live in the city proper, and back then there were about 2 to 3 million, so it was quite crowded. In 1995, the city changed its name to Mumbai.

Since I have only one letter written about their stay in India, it's a bit tricky writing about what they did there. The one letter is from Ella and she doesn't tell us much of what they did there, but spent much of the letter talking about their servants. There's no letter from Harry who was always more descriptive, but who likely didn't write since he thought they'd be home before the letter got there. Perhaps, his letters are just missing since he did write one on July 23rd from Egypt in which he mentions a larger letter written on July 22nd.

According to Ella's letter, they stayed with an Englishman named Mr. Pillar, who was familiar with Bombay. They secured a bearer or man-servant at Pillar's suggestion who waited on them hand and foot, packing and unpacking clothes, making their beds, getting their laundry done, laying out their clothes, making the meals, buying tickets, and even interpreting the Indian language. Ella commented that "Daddy almost is dressed without effort." She drew a rough picture of their bearer below in her letter for Nona. By comparison, on the right is a postcard Ella saved showing the typical bearer.

The second day there, they visited a Mr. Buell who was the principal of a local high school, saw a Parsi funeral (Parsis are the followers of the Zoroaster religion), and visited the Indian Art Museum. Ella described the funeral procession in which the naked body was carried on a wood carrier covered with flowers, then taken to the Tower of Silence where it would be torn to shreds by vultures (I checked into this and found that it was accurate and "according to the Zoroastrian religion, Earth, Fire, and Water are sacred and very useful to mankind, and in order to avoid their pollution by contact with putrefying flesh, the Zoroastrian religion strictly enjoins that the dead bodies should not be buried in the ground, or burnt, or thrown into seas, rivers, etc.")

At the museum they looked at carved ivory, rugs, and Indian silverware and brassware, and they bought some of the brassware that they liked a lot.

They likely stayed in Bombay a good portion of the 15 days they were in India. While there, they likely saw the local sights including the impressive architecture of the General Post Office built in 1913 (shown below), the Victoria Terminus, the huge railroad station built in 1888, the Gateway of India monument built in 1924 on the harbor, and the ornate Taj Mahal Palace Hotel built in 1903 (sight of the terrorist attacks in 2008).

General Post Office in Bombay (Postcard saved by Ella Fife.)

As they went about the streets of Bombay, by foot, car or trolley, they likely also saw the hordes of beggars and street performers from the city's massive poor population. Ella saved the postcard below showing a man and his animal performers.

India was still a British possession in 1934 when they were there, though it was headed towards independence through the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and others, and finally achieved it in 1947.

At some point, they decided to travel to northern India some 750 miles to the city of Agra, just south of Delhi in the state of Uttar Pradesh, the birthplace of Hinduism and the location of the famous Taj Mahal. They more than likely traveled by train to get there, perhaps a 2 day journey one way, so I would guess they stayed in that area for only a few days.

Their saved postcards show scenes of rural India they might have viewed themselves: plowing the fields with oxen, working in an Indian garden, a bazaar in the small town of Musoorie and even one of woman making "buffalo chips" out of manure! These follow below.

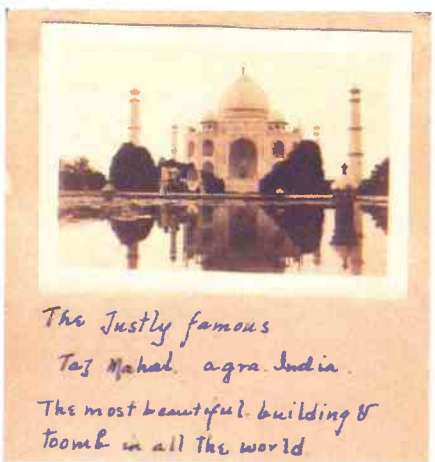
Plowing the fields.

Tending the gardens.

A Bazaar in a small town.

Drying "buffalo chips'".

Without a doubt, their visit to the Taj Mahal was a highlight of the entire trip around the world. Harry calls it "most beautiful building & tomb in all the world" below in his snapshot of it. The Taj Mahal is a mausoleum built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died while giving birth to their fourteenth child. It is considered to be the finest example of Mughal architecture, a style that combines elements from Persian, Indian, and Islamic architectural styles. ("Taj" means "crown" in Urdu and "Mahal" was the last name in the title of the empress-wife.) The Mughals ruled India from 1526 through the mid-19th century.



Harry's picture of the Taj Mahal.

The Taj Mahal took over 20,000 men and 1,000 elephants some 22 years to complete including the beautiful white marble tomb and plinth, plus the four surrounding minarets, the nearby mosque, the gardens with reflecting pool and the great gateway. The white marble was inlaid with 28 types of precious and semi-precious stones including jasper, jade, turquoise, Lapis lazuli, and sapphire. The Emperor was entombed there with his wife upon his subsequent death.

Today, the Taj Mahal is visited by close to 4 million yearly and is on the various lists of modern-day Seven Wonders of the World.

Just how long they stayed in the area is unclear, but it was probably just 2 or 3 days in early July. They brought back a number of postcards and pictures of the building, two of which I have hanging in my dining room here in New Hampshire plus the color picture below in my living room, which is a beautiful water color painted on ivory.

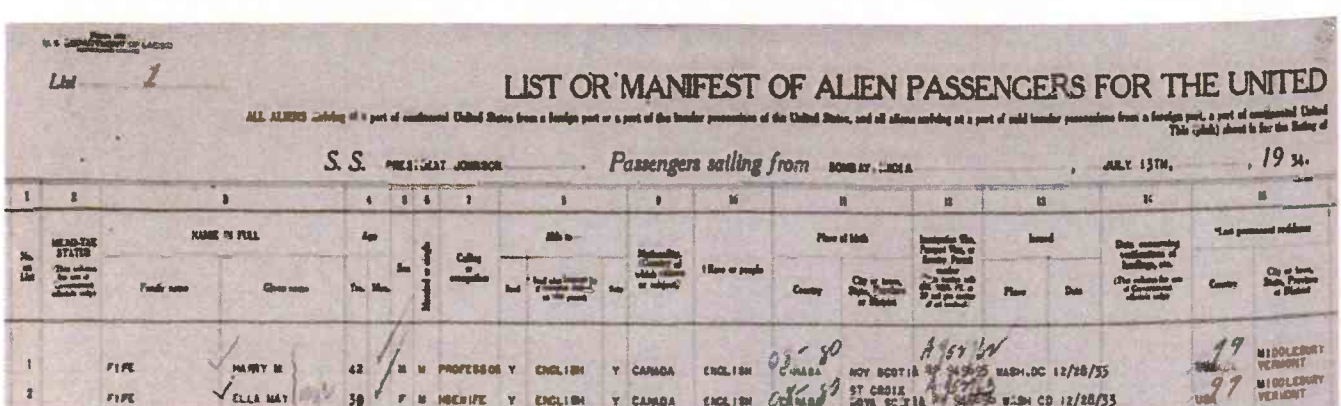
The most impressive memento they bought is a small replica of the Taj Mahal carved out of some white material (I don't think it's ivory) in intricate detail that I keep today in my living room under the glass dome it came with.

Harry also kept this picture of a water carrier he later used in his presentations about the trip. It says it was taken in Fatehpur Sikri (Acbar City) which I googled to find out it's another small town near Agra that was the capital city of the Mughal Empire from 1571 to 1585. "Akbar", not "Acbar", refers to the Emperor who built the city. Harry's writing below explains how each caste would only use water taken from their own caste's wells.

Water Boy
Fatehpur Sikri. (Acbar city)
India
Water carriers use a yoke like a mop pole in china passed down in the family
In India wells belong to the various Sects. Thus a Hindu cannot and would not use water from Well of Mahomedans Jains, Parsees, untouchables must have

I wish there were more letters and we knew more about what they did and where they went in India. Maybe, they will turn up somewhere some day. Doubtful though.

In any event, I do know that they left Bombay on Friday, July 13th aboard the S.S. President Johnson, their final steamship (details at end of chapter on this ship). The President Johnson would take them across the Arabian Sea through the Suez Canal to Naples, Italy, and then to Marseilles, France on their way home to New York City. A photocopy of the official passenger list shows them listed in the "alien" passenger section I believe because they were naturalized U.S. citizens born in Canada.

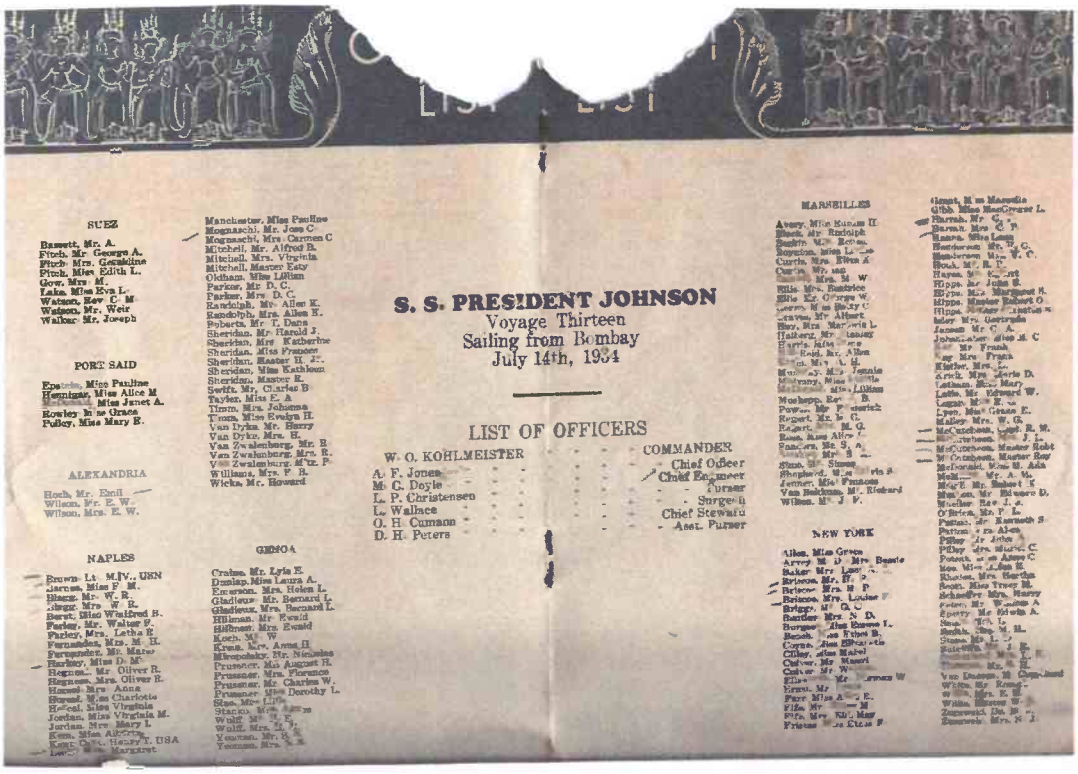

List 1

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED

S.S. PRESIDENT JOHNSON Passengers sailing from BOMBAY, INDIA, JULY 13TH, 19 34.

		NAME IN FULL		Age																			
No. on List	MARRIED OR SINGLE	Family name	Given name	Yrs.	Mos.	Sex	Married or single	Calling or occupation	Able to read	Language spoken	Able to write	Language spoken	Nationality	Race or people	Place of birth: Country	Place of birth: City or town, State, Province or District	Last permanent residence: Country	Last permanent residence: City or town, State, Province or District	Intended future permanent residence: State	Intended future permanent residence: City or town	Final destination: State	Final destination: City or town	Whether ticketed through to final destination	Whether in possession of $50 and over
1		FIFE	HARRY M	42		M	M	PROFESSOR	Y	ENGLISH	Y	ENGLISH	CANADA	ENGLISH	CANADA	NOVA SCOTIA	CANADA	MIDDLEBURY	VERMONT					
2		FIFE	ELLA MAY	38		F	M	HOUSEWIFE	Y	ENGLISH	Y	ENGLISH	CANADA	ENGLISH	CANADA	ST CROIX	CANADA	MIDDLEBURY	VERMONT					

They also kept the Guest List booklet given them by the Dollar Line which listed all the officers of the President Johnson along with each guest aboard and their destination, either somewhere in Egypt, Italy, France or New York City. There are 195 guests listed, most likely just those in first class or state rooms. 78 were bound for the U.S. with Harry & Ella. Looks like they put pencil marks next to those they knew well. (The top of the list was eaten through by mice sometime during its storage over the last 75 years, but luckily it doesn't obscure any names!)



S. S. PRESIDENT JOHNSON
Voyage Thirteen
Sailing from Bombay
July 14th, 1934

LIST OF OFFICERS

W. O. KOHLMEISTER	COMMANDER
A. F. Jones	Chief Officer
M. C. Doyle	Chief Engineer
L. P. Christensen	Surgeon
L. Wallace	Chief Steward
O. H. Cumman	Asst. Purser
D. H. Peters	

They would be back in the United States in less than a month and both were anxious to get back home to their children and friends in Middlebury to share stories of their long trip.

Here's Ella's one letter from Bombay, the last that I have of hers from the trip:

[Letter 14 from Ella]

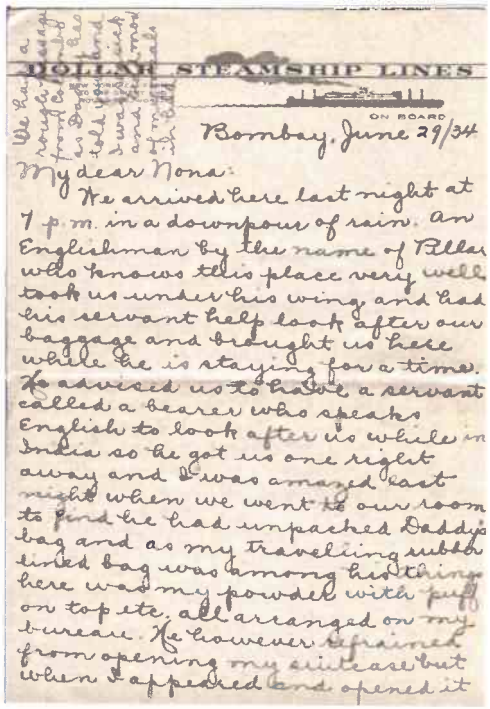
[Written across the top:] We had a rough passage from Colombo as Daddy has told you and I was seasick and had most of my meals in bed.

Bombay, June 29/34

My dear Nona,

We arrived here last night at 7 p. m. in a downpour of rain. An Englishman by the name of Pillar who knows this place very well took us under his wing and had his servant help look after our baggage and brought us here where he is staying for a time. He advised us to have a servant called a bearer who speaks English to look after us while in India so he got us one right away and I was amazed last night when we went to our room to find he had unpacked Daddy's bag and as my travelling rubber-lined bag was among his things

here was my powder with puff on top etc. all arranged on my bureau. He however refrained from opening my suitcase but when I appeared and opened it


DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

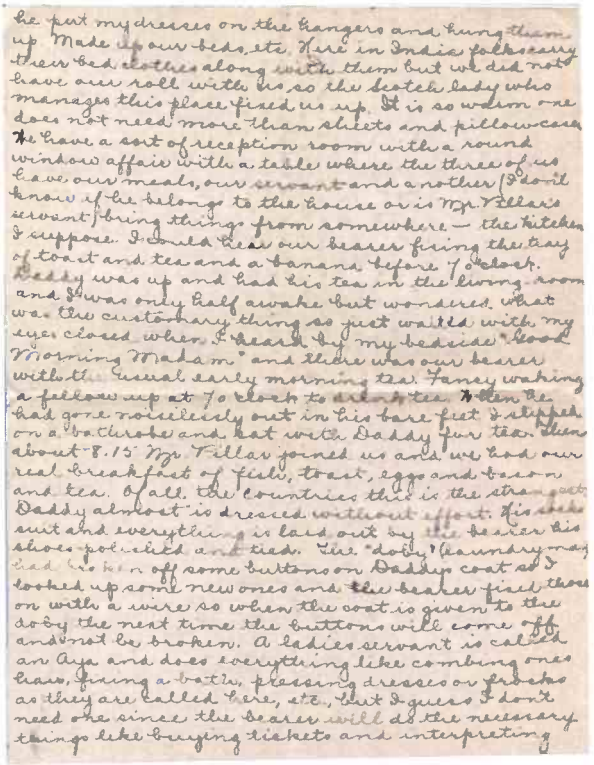
ON BOARD

Bombay, June 29/34

My dear Nona:

We arrived here last night at 7 p.m. in a downpour of rain. An Englishman by the name of Pillar who knows this place very well took us under his wing and had his servant help look after our baggage and brought us here while he is staying for a time. He advised us to have a servant called a bearer who speaks English to look after us while in India so he got us one right away and I was amazed last night when we went to our room to find he had unpacked Daddy's bag and as my traveling rubber lined bag was among his things here was my powder with puff on top etc. all arranged on my bureau. He however refrained from opening my suitcase but when I appeared and opened it

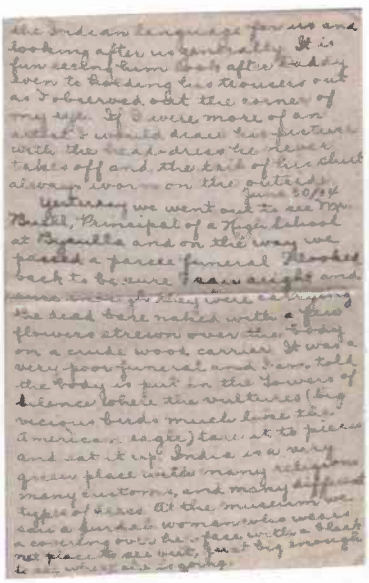
he put my dresses on the hangers and hung them up. Made up our beds, etc. Here in India folks carry their bed clothes along with them but we did not have our roll with us so the Scotch lady who manages this place fixed us up. It is so warm one does not need more than sheets and pillow cases. We have a sort of reception room with a round window affair with a table where the three of us have our meals, our servant and another (I don't know if he belongs to the house or is Mr. Pillar's servant) bring things from somewhere- the kitchen I suppose. I could hear our bearer fixing the tray of toast and tea and a banana before 7 o'clock. Daddy was up and had his tea in the living room and I was only half awake, but wondered what was the customary thing, so just waited with my eyes closed when I heard by my bedside "Good Morning, Madam." And there was our bearer with the usual early morning tea. Fancy waking a fellow up at 7 o'clock to drink tea. When he had gone noiselessly out in his bare feet, I slipped on a bathrobe and sat with Daddy for tea. Then about 8:15, Mr. Pillar joined us and we had our real breakfast of fish, toast, eggs and bacon and tea. Of all the countries this is the strangest. Daddy almost is dressed without effort. His socks, suit and everything is laid out by the bearer, his shoes polished and tied. The "doby" (laundry man) had broken off some buttons on Daddy's coat, so I looked up some new ones and the bearer fixed those on with a wire so when the coat is given to the doby the next time the buttons will come off and not be broken. A ladies servant is called an Aya and does everything like combing ones hair, fixing a bath, pressing dresses or frocks as they are called here, etc., but I guess I don't need one since the bearer will do the necessary things like buying tickets and interpreting



the Indian language for us and looking after us generally. It is fun seeing him look after Daddy even to holding his trousers out as I observed out the corner of my eye. If I were more of an artist I would draw his picture with the head-dress he never takes off and the tail of his shirt always worn on the outside.

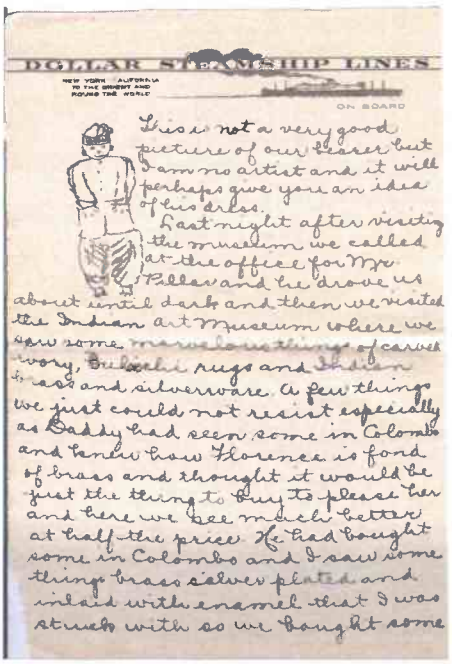
June 30/34

Yesterday we went out to see Mr. Buell, Principal of a High School at Byculla **[in southern Bombay]** and on the way we passed a parsee **[Parsi]** funeral . I looked back to be sure I saw alright and sure enough they were carrying the dead body bare naked with a few flowers strewn over the body on a crude wood carrier. It was a very poor funeral and I am told the body is put in the Towers of Silence where the vultures (big vicious birds much like the American eagles) tear it to pieces and eat it up. India is a very queer place with many religions, many customs and many different types of dress. At the museum we saw a purdah woman who wears a covering over her face with a black net place to see out, just big enough to see where she is going.



This is not a very good picture of our bearer but I am no artist and it will perhaps give you an idea of his dress.

Last night after visiting the museum, we called at the office for Mr. Pillar and he drove us about until dark and then we visited the Indian Art Museum where we saw some marvelous things of carved ivory, Bulachi [?] rugs and Indian Brass and silverware. A few things we just could not resist especially as Daddy had seen some in Colombo and knew how Florence is fond of brass and thought it would be just the thing to buy to please her and here we see much better at half the price. We had bought some in Colombo and I saw some things brass + silver plated and inlaid with enamel that I was struck with so we bought some.


DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

NEW YORK - AUSTRALIA
TO THE ORIENT AND
ROUND THE WORLD

ON BOARD

This is not a very good picture of our bearer but I am no artist and it will perhaps give you an idea of his dress.

Last night after visiting the museum we called at the office for Mr. Pillar and he drove us about until dark and then we visited the Indian Art Museum where we saw some marvelous things of carved ivory, Bulachi rugs and Indian brass and silverware. A few things we just could not resist especially as Daddy had seen some in Colombo and knew how Florence is fond of brass and thought it would be just the thing to buy to please her and here we see much better at half the price. We had bought some in Colombo and I saw some things brass silver plated and inlaid with enamel that I was struck with so we bought some

He also got some gifts but likes them so much I don't know if he will be able to part with them.

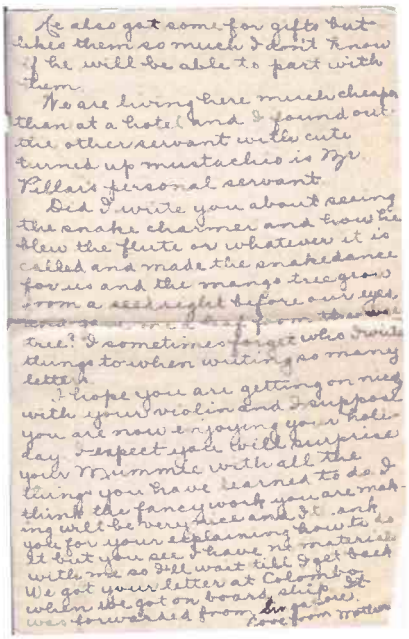
We are living here much cheaper than at a hotel and I found out the other servant with cute turned up mustachio is Mr. Pillar's personal servant.

Did I write you about seeing the snake charmer and how he blew the flute and made the snake dance for us and the mango tree grow from a seed right before our eyes and gave me a leaf from the twee tree? I sometimes forget who I write things to when writing so many letters.

I hope you are getting on nicely with your violin and I suppose you are now enjoying your holiday. I expect you will surprise your Mummie with all the things you have learned to do. I think the fancy work you are making will be very nice and I thank you for your explaining how to do it, but you see I have no materials with me so I'll wait till I get back. We got your letter at Colombo when we got on board ship. It was forwarded from Singapore.

Love from

Mother



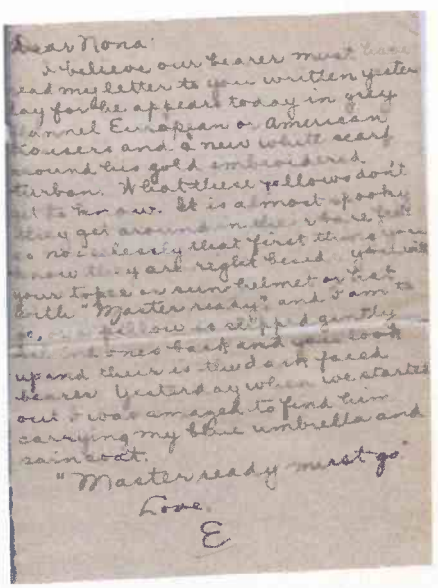
Dear Nona,

I believe our bearer must have read my letter to you written yesterday for he appears today in grey flannel European or American trousers and a new white scarf around his gold embroidered turban. What these fellows don't get to know. It is almost spooky they get around in their bare feet so noiselessly that first thing you know they are right beside you with your topee or sun-helmet or hat with "Master ready", and I am to go, or a pillow is slipped gently behind ones back and you look up and there is the dark faced bearer. Yesterday when we started out I was amazed to find him carrying my blue umbrella and rain coat.

"Master ready must go"

Love,

E



Steamship taken from Bombay to New York City- 7/13-8/13/1934

Source: History - 1904Vessel Statistics at http://www.apl.com/history/html/timeline_statistics.html

President Johnson (First)

Built 1904 by New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, New Jersey. Hull No. 6, O/N 200,690

LOA=615'4"	**LBP**=600'0"	**B**=65'0"	**D**=51'3"	**Draft**=33'6"
Displacement=26,700 LT		**Deadweight**=12,300 LT		**Gross tonnage**=15,543
Cargo capacity=577,816 CuFt.		**Passengers**=252		**Speed**=15 knots

Machinery: Twin screw, two 4-cylinder quadruple expansion steam engines, 11,000 total HP. Four double-ended and 4 single-ended fire tube boilers, 215 PSI WP, originally coal fired but converted to oil fired in 1919.

Originally MANCHURIA. Built for and operated by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. from 1904 to 1915. Sold to Atlantic Transport Co. 1915. After service as a troop transport in World War I was employed in North Atlantic and Intercoastal trade. From 1925 until 1929 operated in the Pacific by Panama Pacific Line. Sold to Dollar Steamship Lines 1929 and renamed **President Johnson**. Laid up in 1931 and transferred to APL in 1938. Served as a troop transport under APL operation in World War II until January 14, 1946. Sold to Tronsmar Navigation Co. January 10, 1947 and subsequently operated by Tagus Navigation Co., Panama and renamed SANTA CRUZ. Scrapped in Italy 1952.

Chapter 12 – Egypt- July 22nd through July 25th 1934

"In Egypt, the President liner schedule permits … you… to leave your Liner at Suez, motor across the desert to Cairo, spend three days in Egypt and rejoin your ship in Alexandria." **Dollar Steamship Line description in Guest List booklet given to Harry & Ella**

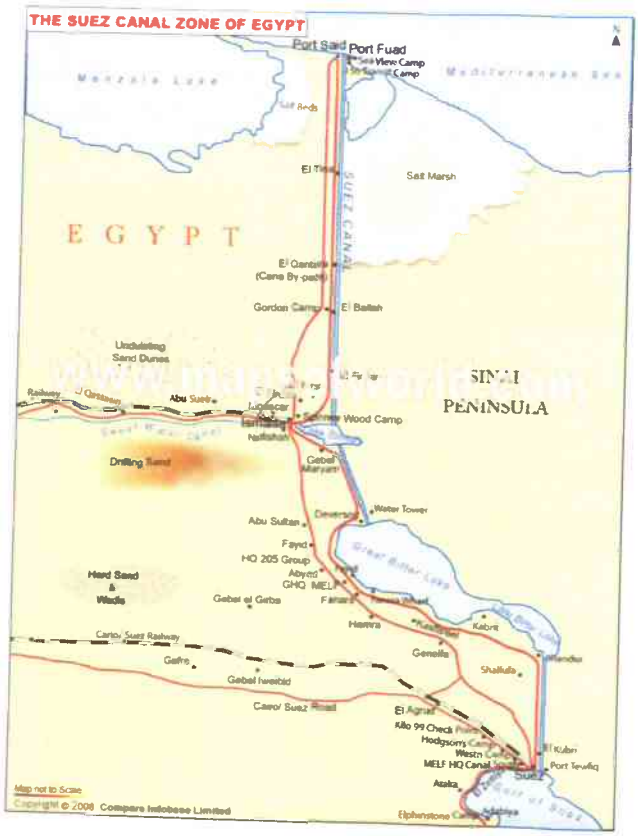
Their voyage on the President Johnson from Bombay to Egypt was one of the longest legs of their journey at just over 3,000 nautical miles and it took 10 days with their arrival at Suez, Egypt, the southern entry to the Suez Canal on Sunday, July 22nd. They crossed the Arabian Sea, went into the Gulf of Aden and then north up into the Red Sea that separates Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Middle East from Egypt and the African continent.

The Red Sea is quite large at about 1,400 miles long, 220 miles wide at its widest point, and an average depth of 1,600 feet, so they must have felt like they were still in the ocean, but they could see land on both sides when it was clear. The ship steamed north to the city of Suez where it stopped for them to disembark for the three day trip to the Cairo area.

They would rejoin the ship in Alexandria, Egypt which is on the Mediterranean Sea about 100 miles west of Port Said (Alexandria is not shown in the map above). The ship would travel some 119 miles through the Suez Canal, a trip that would take less than a day; today, it only takes from 11 to 16 hours at a maximum allowed speed of 8 knots. The canal is three times as wide as the Panama Canal, but it has no locks because the seawater flows freely through it into from both the Mediterranean Sea in the north and the Red Sea in the south, both into the Great Bitter Lake in between. The seawater flowing into this lake is constantly replacing the water evaporated daily.

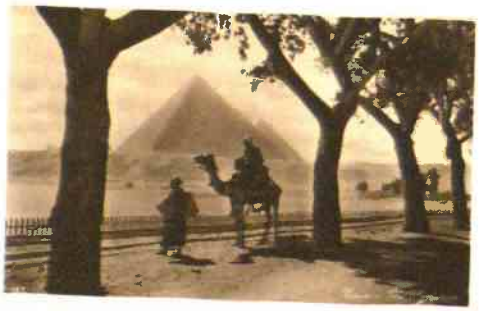
Though they didn't go through the canal, it's interesting to note that the canal was still controlled by the British when they were there, though Egypt itself was technically an independent kingdom and had been since 1922. It wasn't until 1956 when Egypt nationalized the canal, took control of its operation and kicked the British out.

The canal was actually built without British or American support by the independent Suez Canal Company run by the Frenchman Ferdinand de Lesseps. It took 10 years of forced Egyptian labor to complete it, but once done it had a significant impact on trade through the area, lessening the travel time considerably compared with the alternative of going around the southern tip of Africa.



It is only about 150 miles by road to Cairo, so Harry and Ella were probably there the evening of July 23rd and they likely stayed in the city somewhere. Harry's one letter hints that they were going to the nearby Great Pyramids so I assume that's where they went the next day or two, with a visit to the Great Sphinx as well. Though only the one letter with little description has been found, there are a number of postcards and two snap shots saved from their visit to the Cairo area.

The four pyramids of Giza, Egypt.



Another view from nearby oasis.

Postcards saved by Ella Fife.

Needless to say, the desert climate is very hot with an average of 97 degrees Fahrenheit each day in July, so they got to experience that as they saw these monuments. The Great Pyramids are in nearby Giza, only 15 miles from Cairo. Back then, they consisted of four separate pyramids (only three today per the Wikipedia?) with the Great Pyramid, the oldest (built in 2540 B.C.) and the largest at 455 feet high (originally thought to be 481 feet high, but it has eroded). They estimate that there are 2.3 million blocks of stock each weighing about 2 ½ metric tons.

Not far away lies the Great Sphinx. It is the largest monolith statue in the world- 240 ft long, 20 ft wide and 66 ft high. It is also the oldest known monumental structure and is commonly believed to have been built by the ancient Egyptians in the third millennium BC.

The Great Sphinx of Giza.

Per the Wikipedia: "The commonly used name Sphinx was given to it about 2,000 years after the accepted date of its construction, by reference to a Greek mythological beast with a lion's body, a woman's head and the wings of an eagle (although like most Egyptian sphinxes, the Great Sphinx has a man's head and no wings)."

So, I'm fairly sure Harry & Ella saw these amazing monuments while in the Cairo area. Here's a snapshot Harry took of Ella & their guide. It says "Pyramids" but they can't be seen in the picture.

Back in Cairo, they must have visited the Cairo Museum where they saw ancient artifacts including statues, mummies and sarcophagi. They saved the following three postcards from there.

King Mycerinus with Hathar

Statue of King Khepern

Company of forty wooden soldiers.

Harry took another picture of Ella with another woman and an Egyptian guide while in Cairo, shown below. In it, Ella kicks up her leg in fun, so they must have been having a good time there.

Somewhere in Cairo, Egypt

From Cairo, they then made their way north to Alexandria some 130 miles. They probably stayed there for only one night, so they didn't see much of that ancient city. Alexandria is and was the largest seaport in Egypt, and was founded by Alexander the Great in 331 B.C. I'm not sure what they saw there, but there was plenty to see in its monuments, statues, buildings and museums.

Harry used the picture below when giving his subsequent talks on their trip. It depicts the typical Egyptian family of the time.

By now, they had acquired three extra pieces of luggage just to carry the stuff they had bought on their trip. They re-boarded the President Johnson and then sailed north through the Mediterranean probably on Wednesday, July 25th.

Sometime during the trip, perhaps here, they finally received a letter written by Harry Jr. from Nova Scotia. I'm not sure if they got it in Egypt, but I include it here to show you how he was getting on. Below that is the one sole letter from Harry senior written from Egypt (though he mentions the missing larger letter he wrote the day before and one by Ella).

[Letter 2 from Harry Fife Jr.]

Dear daddy and mother,

I got my football bladder today. I hop you are well. I am getting along alright in school

We have the stove **[?]** down. I wish Nona would send some funnies papes. I haven't got the funnies papes for a month.

I hop you know how the team's getting along. We were skating Saturday. **[Probably written in March or early April.]**

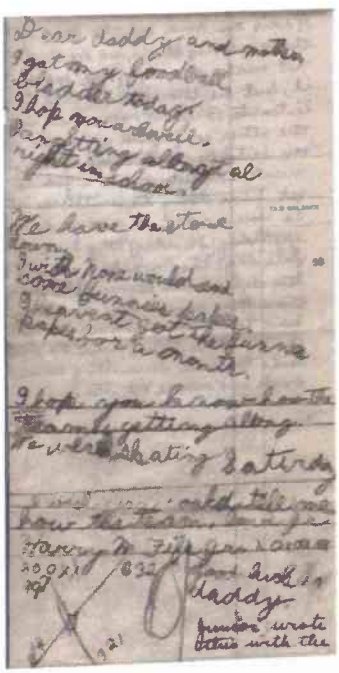
I wish you could tell me how the team. Love you.

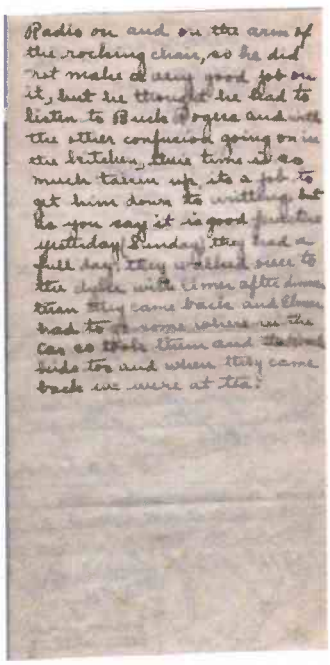
Harry M. Fife Jr. xoxoxoxxooxx

Good luck Daddy

[Note from one of Ella's sister or her brother's wife, which accompanied Harry Jr.'s letter]

Junior wrote this with the radio on and on the arm of the rocking chair, so he did not make a very good job of it, but he thought he had to listen to Buck Rogers and with the other confusion going on in the kitchen, their time is so much taken up, it's a job to get him down to writing, but as you say it is good practice. Yesterday (Sunday) they had a full day, they walked over to the dyke with Elmer after dinner, then they came back and Elmer had to go somewhere in the car so took them and the Roach kids too and when they came back we were at tea.





[Letter 27 from Harry]

Suez, Egypt July 22

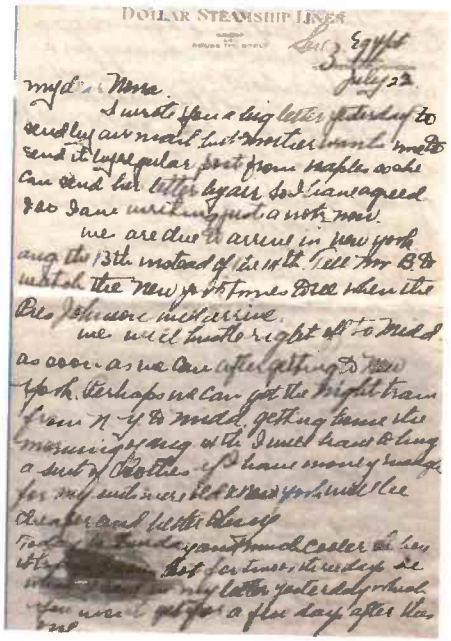
My dear Nona,

I wrote you a big letter yesterday to send by air mail, but Mother wants me to send it by regular post from Naples so she can send her letter by air. So I have agreed + so I am writing just a note now.

We are due to arrive in New York Aug. the 13th instead of the 14th. Tell Mr. B. to watch the New York Times to see when the Pres. Johnson will arrive.

We will hustle right off to Midd. as soon as we can after getting to New York. Perhaps we can get the night train from N.Y. to Midd. getting home the morning of the 14th. I will have to buy a suit of clothes if I have money enough for my suits were old + New York will be cheaper and better to buy.

Today is Sunday and much cooler. Oh boy it has been hot for two or three days. See what I said in my letter yesterday which you won't get for a few days after this one.


DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

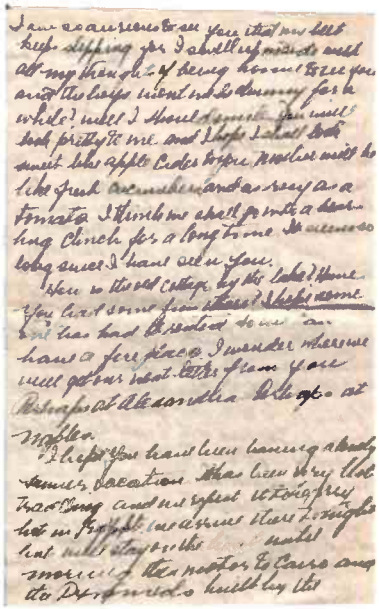
Suez Egypt

July 22

I am so anxious to see you that my belt keeps slipping for I swell up inside with all my thoughts of being home to see you and the boys. Won't we be chummy for a while? Well, I should smile. You will look pretty to me and I hope I shall look sweet like apple cider to you. Mother will be like fresh cucumbers and as rosy as a tomato. I think we shall go into a bear-hug clinch for a long time. It seems so long since I have seen you.

How is the old cottage by the lake? Have you had some fun there? I hope someone has had it rented, so we can have a fireplace. I wonder where we will get our next letter from you. Perhaps at Alexandria. Perhaps at Naples.

I hope you have been having a lovely summer vacation. It has been very hot travelling and we expect it to be very hot in Egypt. We arrive there tonight, but will stay on the boat until morning then motor to Cairo and the Pyramids built by the



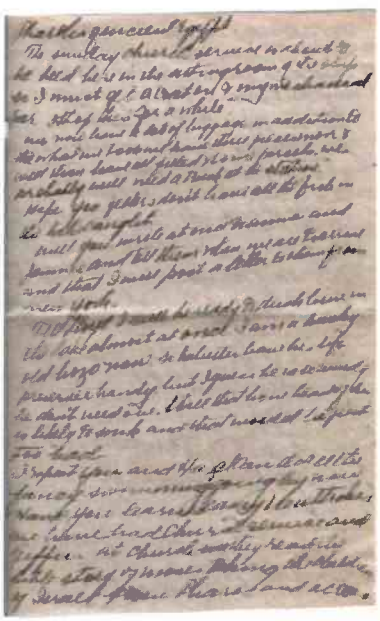
Pharaohs of ancient Egypt.

The Sunday church service is about to be held here in the sitting room of the ship so I must get a coat on + my mechanical ear + stop this for a while.

We now have a lot of luggage. In addition to what we took, we have three pieces more + will then have all filled + some parcels. We probably will need a truck at the station.

Hope you fellas don't have all the fish in the lake caught. Will you write at once to Annie and Jennie and tell them when we are to arrive and that I will post a letter to them from New York. Tell Lloyd I will be ready to duck him in the lake almost at once. I am a husky old bozo now, so he better have his life preserver handy, but I guess he is so windy he don't need one. Still that bone-head of his is likely to sink and that would be just too bad.

I expect you and Hazel can do all the fancy swimming going by now. Have you learned any new strokes? We have had church service and tiffin at church. They read the bible story of Moses taking the children of Israel from Pharo and across



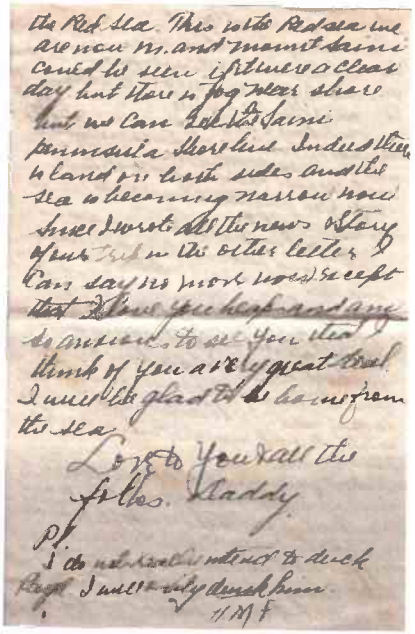
the Red Sea. This is the Red sea we are now in and Mount Sinai could be seen if it were a clear day, but there is fog near shore, but we can see the shoreline Indeed there is land on both sides and the sea is becoming narrow now. Since I wrote all the news + stories of our trip in the other letter, I can say no more now, except that I love you heaps and am so anxious to see you that I think of you a very great deal. I will be glad to be home from the sea.

Love to you + all the folks.

Daddy

P.S. I do not really intend to duck Lloyd. I will only dunk him

H.M.F.



Chapter 13 – Naples, Rome & Genoa, Italy - July 28th through July 31st 1934

The boat ride across the Mediterranean Sea from Alexandria, Egypt to Naples (or Napoli), Italy was exactly 1,000 nautical miles. As you can see from the map below, they would have travelled west across the top of Africa some ways, then north past Malta and to the east of Sicily into the Tyrrhenian Sea to Naples.

Naples was then and is still a major seaport on Italy's western coast and is located just south of Rome. The city is best known for its Italian cuisine, most notably pizza, which originated there.

When Harry and Ella docked there probably on Wednesday July 25th, 1934, Italy was still the Kingdom of Italy but had been under the strict control of the National Fascist Party under Benito Mussolini since 1922. Just two years later, Italy signed its first pact with Nazi Germany leading them toward World War II.

There are no letters from Italy that I've found, probably because they didn't write due to being so close to arriving home anyway. Surprisingly, though I'm pretty sure they did dock in Naples because that's where the Dollar Line had its station, there are no postcards or snapshots of Naples.

There are a number of postcards from Rome, so either they found them in Naples or actually stopped there. I've included four of them below, showing four of the most popular tourist attractions in Rome. I can attest that the structures shown haven't changed much since 1934 as I visited them myself in 2006.

National Monument of Victor Emmanuel II

The Spanish Steps

The Trevi Fountain.

The Arc of Constantine.

After maybe a day in Naples where 49 guests who had traveled from Bombay got off and a number of others got on, they steamed further north another 335 nautical miles to the Italian port of Genoa (at the very top of the map above) where another 20 travelers from Genoa got off and perhaps others bound for Marseilles and New York City boarded.

I have only two post cards which are shown below of Genoa. The one on the left is the house where Christopher Columbus was said to have been born in 1451. The one on the right shows the two towers of the gateway to Genoa.

Casa di Colombo

Torri di Porta Soprana

I suspect they didn't stay long in Genoa, maybe went ashore a few hours as the above buildings are close to the harbor.

They must have re-boarded and left Genoa around the 31st of July bound for Marseilles, France just up the coast. They were increasingly anxious to get home with only one stop now between them and the good old U.S. of A.

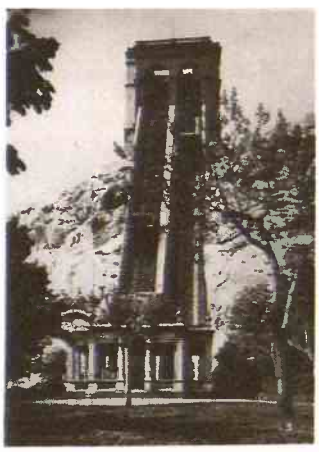
Chapter 14 – Marseilles, France & Back to the U.S.A. – July 31st through August 13th 1934

Marseilles, France was the last stop on their cruise and was only 197 nautical miles down the coast from Genoa, Italy. This probably took no more than a half a day as they steamed west by Monaco and then the sunny French Riviera including Nice, Cannes and Saint Tropez. They didn't have time to stop long and likely stayed just one night in Marseilles only.

Marseilles is the oldest city in France and its major seaport on the Mediterranean. It is and was a bustling city, second in population only to Paris, with a population of about 600,000 at the time. There they picked up a packet of photos in some shop showing the major sights there, some of which they probably saw. There are 10 photos, all of which are shown below along with my synopsis of each.

Le Bassin du Carenage - A boat dock at the inner part of the Old Port. Pleasure boats are still docked & repaired here.

Notre Dame de la Garde- Famous basilica located at the highest point overlooking the port of Marseilles (can be seen in picture to the left).



The elevator which takes sightseers up to Notre dame de la Garde.

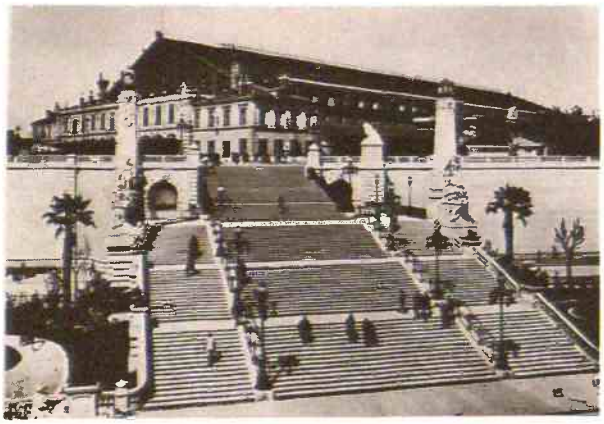
The Cathedrale de la Major- Largest cathedral built in France since the Middle Ages which seats 3,000.

Le Pont Transbordeur- huge transporter bridge built 1905, blown up in WWII. vehicles and people were moved from one bank to the other in a basket suspended from a trolley under the deck.

Rues de Noailles and de la Canabiere – two main avenues in Marseilles.

Quai du Port de Cathedrale – The waterfront on the harbor in front of the the Cathedral.

Palais Longchamps – Huge chateauu built in 1869 to commemorate the The opening of the canal that brought water to Marseilles. Surrounded by a huge park with many fountains and waterfalls.

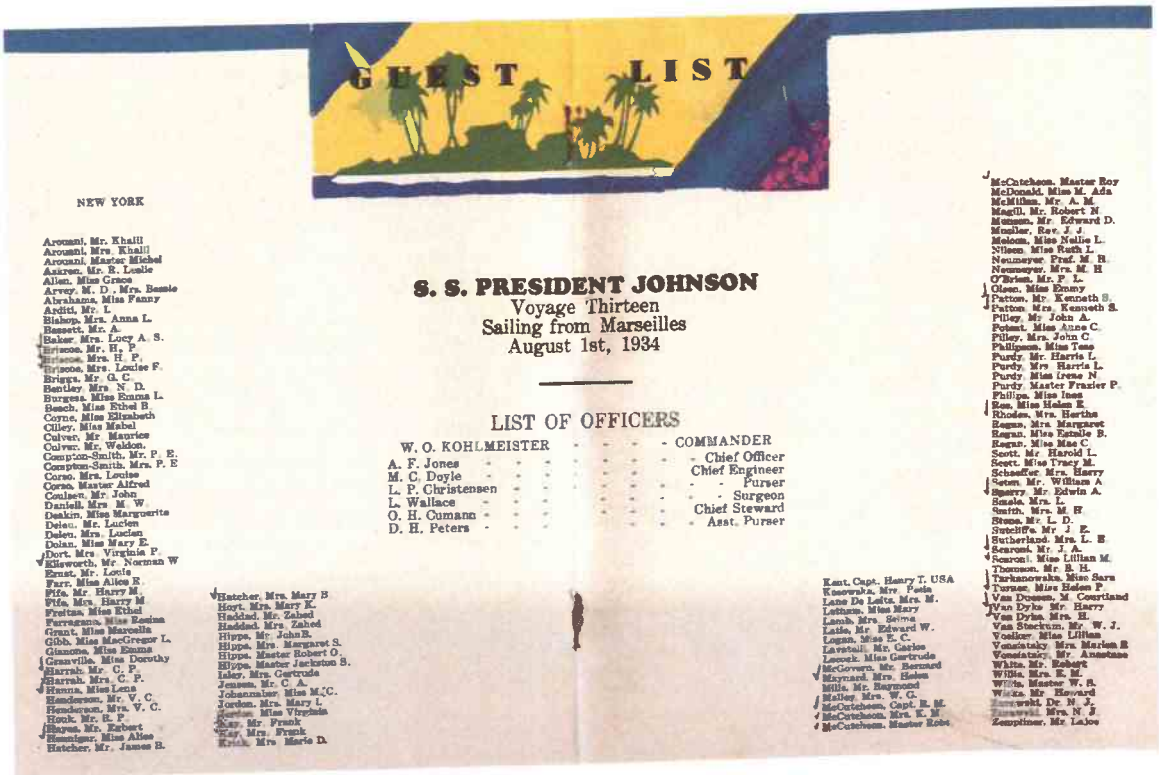


Gare de Marseillaise Saint-Charles- Railway station that opened in 1848 with its famous monumental staircase.

Le Chateau d'If – Old fortress and state prison located on an island off The port of Marseilles. In the Count of Monte Cristo, Edmund Dantes was imprisoned here.

So, there were many fascinating landmarks to see in Marseilles. Hopefully Harry & Ella saw the ones above and perhaps others in their short stay.

The President Johnson left Marseilles sometime on August 1st with 143 first class passengers bound for New York City. The Guest List saved by Ella is shown below, again with tick marks next to names of people they probably met sometime during the voyage. There were only 24 married couples (at least those with the same last name), so there were a lot of unmarried couples or friends on the boat plus a sprinkling of children.



GUEST LIST

NEW YORK

S. S. PRESIDENT JOHNSON
Voyage Thirteen
Sailing from Marseilles
August 1st, 1934

LIST OF OFFICERS

W. O. KOHLMEISTER	COMMANDER
A. F. Jones	Chief Officer
M. C. Doyle	Chief Engineer
L. P. Christensen	Purser
L. Wallace	Surgeon
O. H. Ommann	Chief Steward
D. H. Peters	Asst. Purser

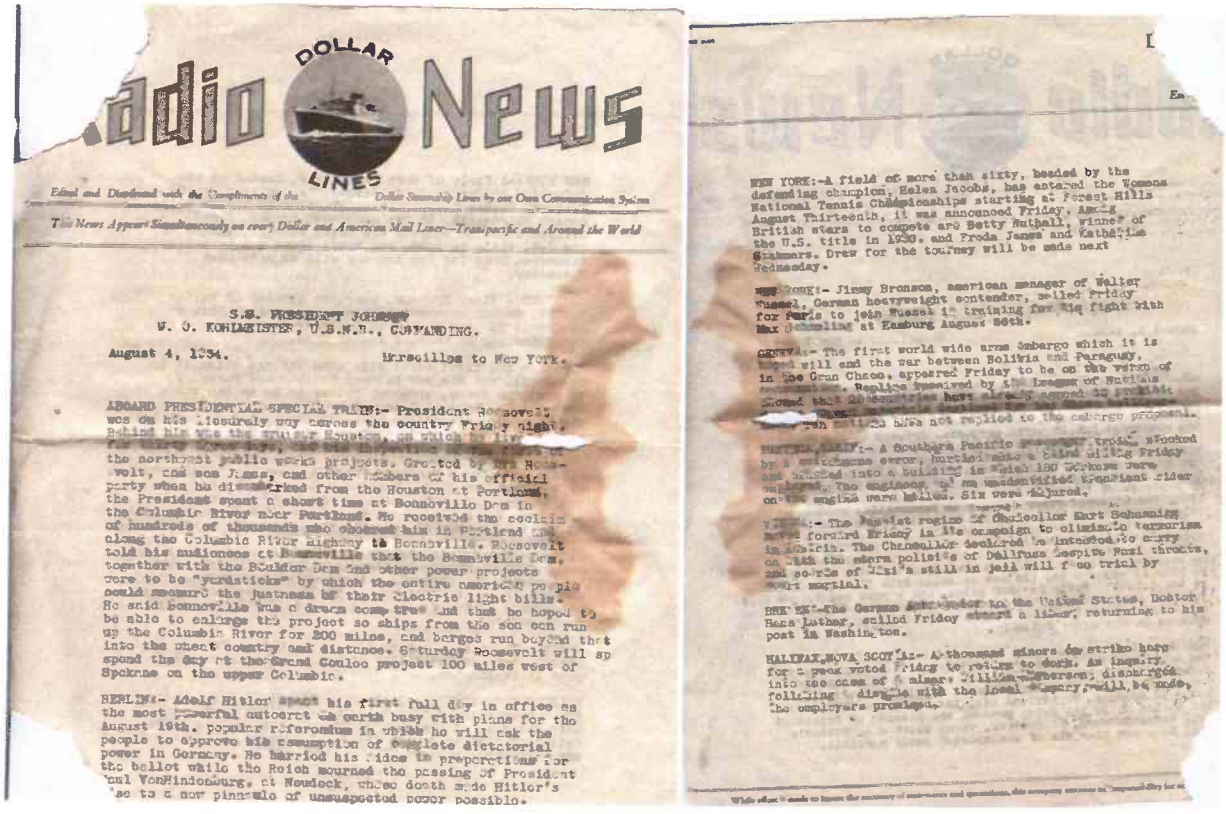
The ship headed southwest toward the Straits of Gibraltar at the entrance of the Mediterranean Sea, then out into the Atlantic Ocean toward New York City. The trip would take 12 days to cross the 3,873 nautical miles from Marseilles to New York, the longest leg of their trip.

Harry saved the ship's newsletter for August 4th, which was apparently put together by the Dollar Line and sent by their "communication system", probably radio or telegraph, to each ship in the Dollar fleet around the world. In it, they received somewhat stale international and U.S. news including news of President Franklin Roosevelt who was just into his second year of office and was dealing with the Great Depression through various work projects.

Also in the news was Adolf Hitler who had just taken office and was already called "the most powerful autocrat on earth". In sports news, Helen Jacobs was defending her tennis championship at Forest Hills (she would win for the third of four straight years) and the German boxer Walter Neusel was training for an upcoming bout with the famous German boxer Max Schmeling. (Schmeling won this bout which had the all-time record European boxing attendance of 102,000, but Neusel beat him 14 years later in 1948.)

In financial news, the dollar was sinking fast and stocks were flat with a lot of interest being shown in the new airline stocks. 460,000 shares exchanged hands in the U.S. stock market and the newsletter listed prices for 44 companies including AT&T, GE, Sears Roebuck and US Steel. The Purser would provide prices for stocks not listed in the newsletter free to any passenger. Presumably, many of the first class passengers still held stocks after the Crash five years earlier.

Unfortunately, the newsletter, Radio News, was stained by coffee and eaten by mice, but fortunately they didn't get many of the words.



Radio News

DOLLAR LINES

Edited and Distributed with the Compliments of the Dollar Steamship Lines by our Own Communication System

This News Appears Simultaneously on every Dollar and American Mail Liner—Transpacific and Around the World

S.S. PRESIDENT JOHNSON
W. O. KOHLMEISTER, U.S.N.R., COMMANDING.

August 4, 1934. Marseilles to New York.

ABOARD PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL TRAIN:- President Roosevelt was on his leisurely way across the country Friday night. Behind him was the cruiser Houston, on which he [illegible] the northwest public works projects. Greeted by Mrs. Roosevelt, and son James, and other members of his official party when he disembarked from the Houston at Portland, the President spent a short time at Bonneville Dam in the Columbia River near Portland. He received the acclaim of hundreds of thousands who cheered him in Portland and along the Columbia River highway to Bonneville. Roosevelt told his audiences at Bonneville that the Bonneville Dam, together with the Boulder Dam and other power projects were to be "yardsticks" by which the entire american people could measure the justness of their electric light bills. He said Bonneville was a dream come true and that he hoped to be able to enlarge the project so ships from the sea can run up the Columbia River for 200 miles, and barges run beyond that into the wheat country and distance. Saturday Roosevelt will spend the day at the Grand Coulee project 100 miles west of Spokane on the upper Columbia.

BERLIN:- Adolf Hitler spent his first full day in office as the most powerful autocrat on earth busy with plans for the August 19th. popular referendum in which he will ask the people to approve his resumption of complete dictatorial power in Germany. He harried his aides in preparations for the ballot while the Reich mourned the passing of President Paul VonHindenburg, at Neudeck, whose death made Hitler's rise to a new pinnacle of unsuspected power possible.

NEW YORK:-A field of more than sixty, headed by the defending champion, Helen Jacobs, has entered the Womens National Tennis Championships starting at Forest Hills August Thirteenth, it was announced Friday. Among British stars to compete are Betty Nuthall, winner of the U.S. title in 1930, and Freda James and Kathleen Stammers. Draw for the tourney will be made next Wednesday.

[illegible]:- Jimmy Bronson, american manager of Walter Neusel, German heavyweight contender, sailed Friday for Paris to join Neusel in training for his fight with Max Schmeling at Hamburg August 26th.

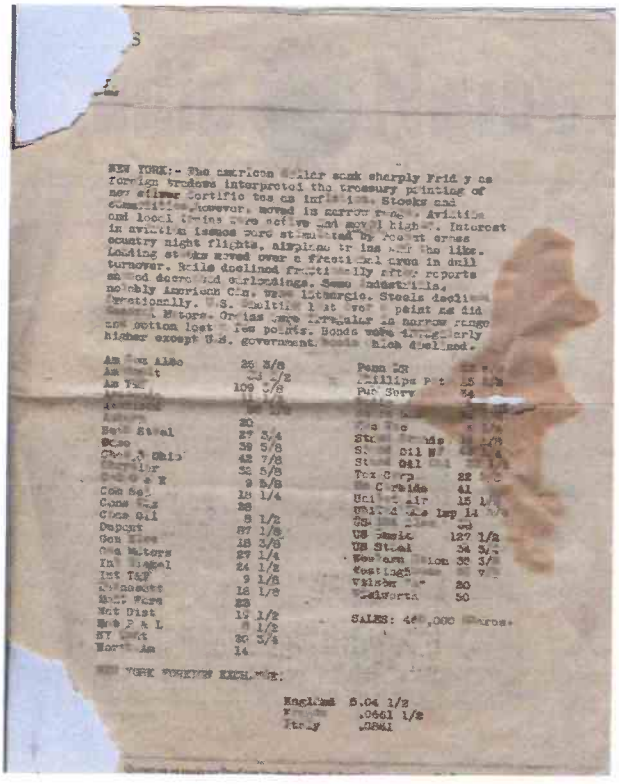
GENEVA:- The first world wide arms embargo which it is hoped will end the war between Bolivia and Paraguay, in the Gran Chaco, appeared Friday to be on the verge of [illegible]. Replies received by the League of Nations [illegible] Bolivia have not replied to the embargo proposals. [illegible]

[illegible]:- A Southern Pacific passenger train, [illegible] by a switchmans error, hurtled into a blind siding Friday and crashed into a building in which 150 persons were [illegible]. The engineer, [illegible] on the engine were killed. Six were injured.

[illegible]:- The Fascist regime of Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg moved forward Friday in its campaign to eliminate terrorism in Austria. The Chancellor declared he intended to carry on with the stern policies of Dollfuss despite Nazi threats, and scores of Nazi's still in jail will face trial by court martial.

BERLIN:-The German Ambassador to the United States, Doctor Hans Luther, sailed Friday aboard a liner, returning to his post in Washington.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA:- A thousand miners day strike here for a peak voted Friday to return to work. An inquiry into the cause of 9 miners killed [illegible], disagreed into the cause of 9 miners killed [illegible] disagreed following a dispute with the local [illegible], will be made, the employers promised.



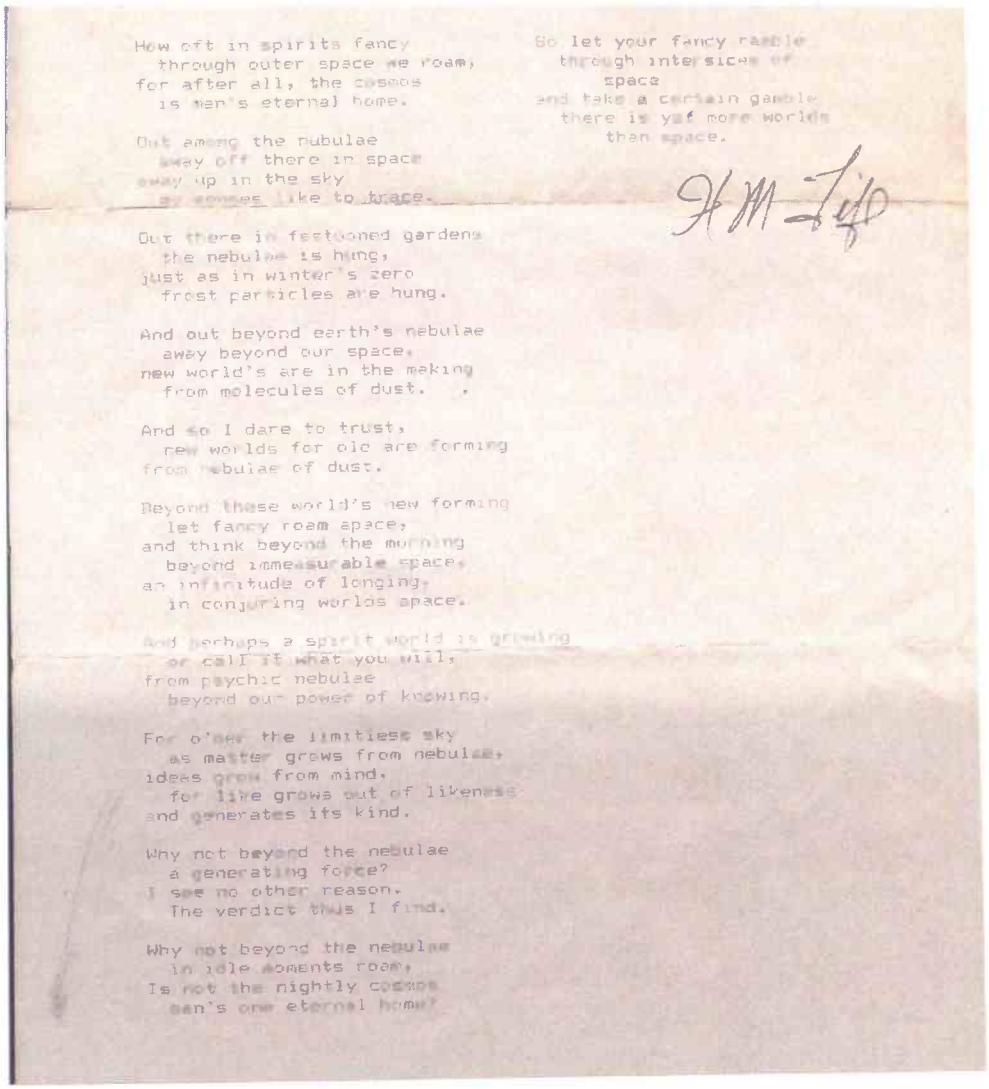
NEW YORK:- The american dollar sank sharply Friday as foreign traders interpreted the treasury printing of new silver certificates as inflation. Stocks and Commodities, however, moved in narrow trade. Aviation and local issues were active and moved higher. Interest in aviation issues were stimulated by recent cross country night flights, airplane trains and the like. Leading stocks moved over a fractional area in dull turnover. Bonds declined fractionally after reports showed decreased earnings. Some industrials, notably American Can, were lethargic. Steels declined fractionally. U.S. Smelting lost two points as did General Motors. Oriental issues were irregular as narrow range and bottom lost few points. Bonds were irregularly higher except U.S. government bonds which declined.

Am Can Also	25 3/8	Penn RR	[illegible]
Am Smelt	[illegible] 1/2	Phillips Pet	15 [illegible]
Am Tel	109 3/8	Pub Serv	34
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	20	[illegible]	[illegible]
Beth Steel	27 3/4	Std Oil	[illegible]
Chase	39 5/8	Std Oil NJ	43 1/4
Chrysler	42 7/8	Std Oil [illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	32 5/8	Tex Corp	22 [illegible]
Con Edison	9 3/8	Un Carbide	41
Cons Oil	18 1/4	Unit Aircraft	15 1/4
Corn Prod	88	Unit Gas Imp	11 [illegible]
Curtiss Wright	8 1/2	[illegible]	[illegible]
Du Pont	87 1/8	US Rubber	127 1/2
Gen Elec	18 3/8	US Steel	34 3/4
Gen Motors	37 1/4	Western Union	32 3/4
Int Harvest	24 1/2	Westinghouse	7 [illegible]
Int T&T	9 1/8	Woolworth	50
Kennecott	18 1/8	Wright Aero	50
Mont Ward	22		
Nat Dist	19 1/2	SALES: 440,000 shares.	
N Y C & L	8 1/2		
NY Cent	30 3/4		
North Am	14		

NEW YORK FOREIGN EXCHANGE:

England	5.04 1/2
France	.0661 1/2
Italy	.0841

Sometime during the seven month voyage, Harry, the dry economist, had taken pen to paper to write a poem of his reflections on the universe, space and the cosmos. I picture him writing it one starry night on deck sitting in a deck chair as he gazed up into the constellations of the wide night sky. I won't try to interpret it, but suffice it to say he was thinking about more than economics!



How oft in spirits fancy
through outer space we roam,
for after all, the cosmos
is man's eternal home.

Out among the nebulae
away off there in space
away up in the sky
as senses like to trace.

Out there in festooned gardens
the nebulae is hung,
just as in winter's zero
frost particles are hung.

And out beyond earth's nebulae
away beyond our space,
new world's are in the making
from molecules of dust.

And so I dare to trust,
new worlds for old are forming
from nebulae of dust.

Beyond these world's new forming
let fancy roam space,
and think beyond the morning
beyond immeasurable space,
an infinitude of longing,
in conjuring worlds space.

And perhaps a spirit world is growing
or call it what you will,
from psychic nebulae
beyond our power of knowing.

For o'er the limitless sky
as matter grows from nebulae,
ideas grow from mind,
for like grows out of likeness
and generates its kind.

Why not beyond the nebulae
a generating force?
I see no other reason.
The verdict thus I find.

Why not beyond the nebulae
in idle moments roam,
Is not the nightly cosmos
man's one eternal home?

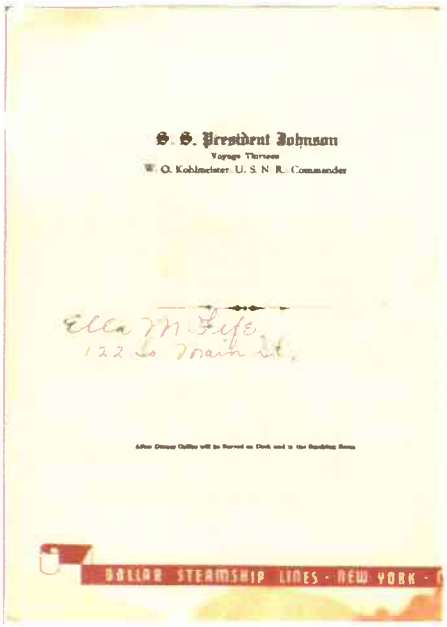
So let your fancy ramble
through intersices of
space
and take a certain gamble
there is yet more worlds
than space.

H M Lyle

As they steamed home across the Atlantic, I'm sure they spent their time playing the usual deck games, reading, playing cards, and enjoying the bountiful meals. On the 12th of August, Captain Kohlmeister gave a Farewell Dinner for the first class passengers of Voyage Thirteen of the President Johnson (probably the 13th trip of the ship for Dollar Lines since 1928).

As usual, they ate very well with oyster cocktails, caviar, prime rib, and English plum pudding on the menu along with many other gastronomic treats. Ella saved this menu and wrote her name & address on it along with three other names and addresses of people they dined with- Norman Ellsworth of Maryland, Alice Hennigar of Brooklyn, New York and Edwin Sperry of Tientsin, China.

The menu is below:


S. S. President Johnson
Voyage Thirteen
W. O. Kohlmeister U. S. N. R. Commander

Ella M. Fife
122 So. Main St.

DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES · NEW YORK ·

Alice M. Hennigar Drop in
24 Bulwer Place any time
Brooklyn N. Y.

FAREWELL DINNER

Oyster Cocktail
Gherkins — Caviare Canape — Queen Olives
Pickled English Walnuts

SOUP
Cream of Tomato — Consomme Claire

FISH
Fried Silver Sole, Tartare Sauce
Naturale Potatoes

ENTREES
Baked Ham with Orange Sauce
Stuffed Green Peppers
Sponge Fritter, Fruit Sauce

ROASTS
Roast Prime Ribs of Beef au Jus, Brown Potatoes
Roast Turkey, Savoury Dressing, Cranberry Sauce

VEGETABLES
Baked Summer Squash — Fresh String Beans
Snowflake Potatoes — Steamed Rice — Potatoes au Gratin

SPECIAL FROM GRILL
Roast Breast of Pheasant Bread Sauce

SALAD
Fruit — Hearts of Lettuce, Thousand Island Dressing

DESSERT
Ice Cream with Wafers
English Plum Pudding, Hard and Brandy Sauce
Lady Fingers — Assorted Pastry — Marble Cake
Cheese: Roquefort Gorgonzola Bel Paese Port Salut
Sent's Toasted Water Crackers

FRUIT
Fresh Fruit in Season
Cluster of Raisins
Preserved Chinese Ginger
Cafe Noir

Sunday, August 12, 1934 — O. H. Comans, Chief Steward

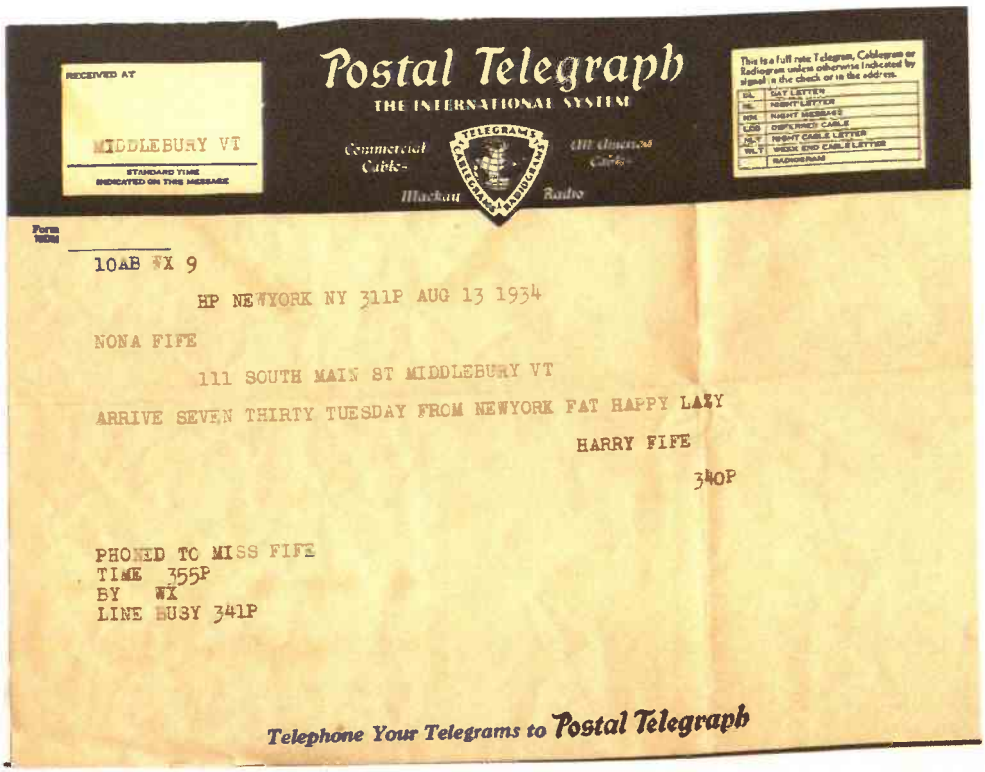
Norman E. Ellsworth, Steward Forest, Miss.
Oysters on Half Shell
Consomme Royale
Fantaisie Cocktail

LIFORNIA · ORIENT · ROUND THE WORLD

They steamed into the harbor of New York City on the afternoon of August 13th 1934 after 208 days or almost seven months on their trip around the world. Their five Dollar ships had traveled about 26,000 nautical miles and they had traveled countless miles on land in the various ports they stopped at. It had been the trip of their lifetime chock full of new experiences and sights. They had seen the pyramids of Egypt, the Great Wall of China and the Taj Mahal in India; gone through the two major canals of the world, the Panama & the Suez; visited Japan only a few years before World War II; witnessed the emerging nations of China and India; met people from numerous countries; and even spent a month and a half on the coast of sunny California.

Both Harry and Ella were clearly anxious to get home to their three children and many friends in Vermont, and back to their comfortable routine at Middlebury College. Their letters had increasingly spoken of the fewer number of days until they returned home, especially about Nona, Harry Junior and James who probably also awaited their parents eagerly (though I bet Harry Jr. and Jim didn't want to leave Nova Scotia). Harry longed to get back to the old cottage on Lake Dunmore, to dunk Mr. Butterfield in the lake and to take up his fishing reel to catch all the fish the others hadn't caught in his absence.

Finally, they disembarked from the President Johnson and went quickly, I think, to the local telegraph office to dispatch the telegram below to Nona in Middlebury at just after 3 P.M. of August 13th. It was phoned to my mother, Nona around 4 P.M., and I'm quite sure she was happy to receive it. They would finally arrive home in Middlebury by train from New York the next morning at 7:30. As Harry said in an earlier letter, "I think we shall go into a bear-hug clinch for a long time." And, they probably did.



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NL NIGHT LETTER
NM NIGHT MESSAGE
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WLT WEEK END CABLE LETTER
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